

# Hays Pride

## 2025 Year-End Report

### Overview

Hays Pride, during the 2025 calendar year, organized a series of public events to engage, empower, and increase the visibility of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals in Hays and the surrounding communities. Hays Pride partnered in this work with St. Michael's Episcopal Church, the Fort Hays State University and Hays High School Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs), and Equality Kansas.

### Board of Directors

J, David Macey, President; Kiernan McCarty, Vice President, Amber Nickell, Treasurer; Hollie Marquess, Secretary; Anniston Weber, Social Media Coordinator; Allison Bannister, Arvin Cruz, Thomas Mathews Horne (through 09/2025), Ben Houchen, G.G. Launchbaugh, Jessica McGuire, Beck Watson (through 09/2025)

### Community Outreach and Engagement

During the 2025 calendar year, Hays Pride engaged in the following community outreach and engagement activities:

- **Lavender Graduation** (May 9): Community Celebration of Spring 2025 LGBTQIA2S+ Graduates, in Partnership with Fort Hays State University Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (Ceremony) and Arcade 11 (Celebration)
- **Hays Pride Community Potluck Meals** (May 10 and September 6): Potluck Meals and Community-Building Conversations at Frontier Park (May) and ARC/Seven Hills Optimist Park (September)
- **2025 Pride Picnic** (June 21): Community Picnic, Resource Fair, and Social Gathering at Frontier Park
- **Wild West Festival Main Street Parade** (July 5): Float and Marching Contingent
- **Tabling at Fort Hays State University Back-to-School Picnic** (August 18): Informational Table and Outreach to New and Returning Fort Hays State University Students

- **Hays High School Homecoming Parade** (September 26): Float and Marching Contingent in Partnership with Hays High School Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA)
- **Fort Hays State University Homecoming Parade** (September 27): Float and Marching Contingent in Partnership with Fort Hays State University Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA)
- **Statement on Free Expression** (October 29): Statement of the Board of Directors in Support of Free Speech and against Censorship
- **Thanksgiving Grocery Gift Card Distribution** (November): Distribution of Kroger/Dillon's Gift Cards to Community Members, Sponsored by Equality Kansas
- **FrostFest Holiday Parade** (December 7): Float and Marching Contingent

### **Planning for 2026 Calendar Year**

The Hays Pride Board of Directors will meet in January of 2026 to plan programming for the 2026 calendar year.