

**KRIS W. KOBACH**  
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, 1st Floor  
120 S.W. 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612-1594  
(785) 296-4575  
[www.sos.ks.gov](http://www.sos.ks.gov)

## STATE OF KANSAS

### NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact Information**  
V. Kay Curtis, Public Affairs Director, Kansas Secretary of State  
785-296-4580 | [media@sos.ks.gov](mailto:media@sos.ks.gov)

### **Secretary of State Kobach Sponsors Ad Astra Archery Tournament**

TOPEKA (August 29, 2011) – Secretary of State Kris Kobach will sponsor the first annual Secretary of State Ad Astra Archery Tournament on Saturday, September 10, 2011. The event will take place at MacLennan Park (south of Cedar Crest, the governor’s residence) beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Archers in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will compete against others in their grade category. In order to participate, each archer must have pre-registered for the tournament and completed the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) curriculum training in their school, or equivalent training through a community organization such as the Centershot program in area churches.

Sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of State, the Ad Astra Archery Tournament is a joint effort with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), and the Department of Health and Human Performance at Fort Hays State University (FHSU). Gary Keehn is the state coordinator for the Kansas Archery in the Schools Program at KDWPT, and Joyce Ellis is the NASP State Tournament Director at FHSU. Both played an instrumental role in planning this archery competition.

“As an avid archer myself, I know how much fun kids and grownups alike can have in the sport of archery,” said Kobach. “This event celebrates archery and encourages Kansas kids to get involved in it. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and Fort Hays State University have been great partners in this project.”

Ad Astra is the Kanza warrior statue on top of the State Capitol, whose arrow is aimed at the North Star. The statue was named after the Kansas state motto “Ad Astra per Aspera” which means “to the stars through difficulty.” It is the only statue of an archer on top of a capitol building in the country.

“Archery is a growing sport in Kansas both in schools and among adults,” said Kobach. “This tournament will allow trained students to compete, and will give others an opportunity to try their hand at hitting the bulls-eye in the learn-to-shoot area. We invite all Kansans to come out and enjoy the fun on Saturday.”