

PA SPORTS ATTRACTS THE BIGGEST EVENTS

Organization brings
major competitions to
Pennsylvania

SPORTS ARE
BIG BUSINESS IN THE
KEYSTONE STATE

Commonwealth's
rich sports history
attracts legions
of fans

13 EVENT-READY
DESTINATIONS
AND THEIR
TOP VENUES

Pennsylvania
pursue your happiness



CARRIE FISCHER LEPORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY, MARKETING,
TOURISM, & FILM

Greetings!

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we'd like to welcome you to the Keystone State for your next sporting event. Tourism, and sport tourism in particular, forms a crucial component of our vibrant Pennsylvania economy. According to a recent study by Tourism Economics, Pennsylvania hosted 5.5 million visits related to sports, and generated nearly \$438 million in direct spending in the analyzed year of 2015.

Life in the Keystone State is invigorating, fulfilling, and downright happy, and it's home to many modern, cutting-edge facilities equipped with the latest technology that are perfect for your next event. From sandy shores and rugged peaks to tranquil forests and roaring rivers, Pennsylvania provides endless opportunities to pursue your happiness throughout all four seasons. Our diverse market — which includes youth and adult amateur, college, and professional sporting events — attracts out-of-town and out-of-state visitors to an array of destinations and attractions across the state.

PA Sports is an organization comprising 13 member destinations throughout Pennsylvania that are home to some of the top attractions for sports tourism in the country. These highly trained professionals understand that success in hosting events is a team effort. From Erie and Pittsburgh to Philadelphia and the Lehigh Valley — and everywhere in between! — Pennsylvania has just what you and your team are looking for. To learn more about sports facilities across our great state or to book your next sporting event, visit SportsinPA.com. To start planning your next trip to one of Pennsylvania's cultural, historic, and outdoor destinations, head over to visitPA.com.

Yours in Happiness,

Carrie Fischer Lepore
Deputy Secretary, Marketing, Tourism, & Film
PA Department of Community & Economic Development

Pennsylvania
pursue your happiness™

COVER PHOTO:

Pro Watercross HydroFlight Tour on Presque Isle Bay
(Photo courtesy of the Erie Sports Commission)



PA



PITTSBURGH, PA

AS THE SITE FOR THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL GAME AND THE FIRST WORLD SERIES, PITTSBURGH IS BOOMING WITH AN AUTHENTIC, ICONIC SPORTS HISTORY AND WORLD-CLASS

We all know Pittsburgh is home to the NFL's **Pittsburgh Steelers**, but what many don't know is Pittsburgh is home to an array of unique activities. From art museums with collections from one of the world's most famous artists to the one-and-only independent indoor nonprofit aviary in the nation, Pittsburgh has something for everyone to enjoy. The Steel City is also known for its flourishing multicultural heritage, resulting in a slew of delectable eateries found throughout the city.

Things to do in Pittsburgh

Kennywood Park is Pittsburgh's cherished amusement park, an ideal family-friendly getaway that's fun for all ages. Teams can take an exhilarating ride on **The Phantom's Revenge** or indulge in a skydiving adventure at the **Skycoaster**. To get a true feel for the essence of Pittsburgh, a day spent at the **Gateway Clipper Fleet** is a must. Teams and families can choose from a variety of cruises that take you on sightseeing tours along the Monongahela River.

How to Get to Pittsburgh

West Coast sports teams can take I-80 to reach the Steel City. Teams traveling from southern states can take I-77, I-85 or I-79. East Coast teams and families can hop on I-84, I-76 or I-90. Major cities nearest to **Pittsburgh** are **Philadelphia, Cleveland, New York, Baltimore** and **Washington D.C.** **Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT)** is located about 20 miles west of downtown Pittsburgh and is a major hub for US Airways and low-cost carriers such as Allegiant Air, Frontier Airlines and Spirit Airlines.

Planner Perspective

"With an amazing local BMX program in South Park BMX and outstanding support from VisitPITTSBURGH, our decision was easy."

– John David, *USA BMX*

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT

1. David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Sports: All

The David L. Lawrence Convention Center features four floors with 53 meeting rooms, Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom and an additional meeting space. The convention center has previously hosted the USA Karate National Championships and Team Trials, offering amenities such as 700 indoor parking spaces, catering and concessions, wheelchair accessibility, free and public Wi-Fi and special equipment rental.

2. PPG Paints Arena

Sports: Basketball, hockey, figure skating, wrestling, volleyball

Home to the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins and host of the first and second rounds of the 2018 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, PPG Paints Arena boasts the most comfortable seating arrangement in the NHL, with seats up to 24 inches wide and an accompanying increase in leg room.

3. Heinz Field

Sports: Football, hockey, soccer, rugby, lacrosse

Home to the NFL's Steelers and the NCAA's University of Pittsburgh Panthers, Heinz Field was also home to the 2017 NHL Stadium Series. In 2016, the stadium set a new attendance record at 69,983 spectators during the Keystone Classic. This facility has an incomparable playing field, featuring a heated, four-variety blend of Kentucky Bluegrass with 12-inch, sand-based rootzone soil that meets USGA specifications.



SportsPITTSBURGH

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Bringing the Biggest and Best Events to Pennsylvania

Started in 2003 on a cocktail napkin, PA Sports has helped turn Pennsylvania into a sports tourism powerhouse

With its mountainous terrain, rolling hills, stunning lakes and millions of acres of forest, Pennsylvania is renowned for its natural beauty.

The Keystone State also sports a litany of superb cities that include places like Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Lancaster and Erie. This combination of organic scenery and cosmopolitan boroughs makes Pennsylvania a tourism hotbed and a four-season destination for sporting events.

While Pennsylvania's wonders make it a desirable tournament location, a major reason the state is able to attract marquee events is the considerable efforts from the unified organization that is PA Sports.

PA Sports is a team of the leading sports tourism organizations from throughout Pennsylvania, consisting of 13 destinations with 16 individual members. Its mission is to attract and host local, regional, national and

international sporting events and showcase the state as a viable sports event destination for professional, collegiate, interscholastic, amateur and youth sporting ventures.

"I'm very proud to lead such a dedicated group of talented individuals who are working cooperatively to attract sporting events and competitions to the Commonwealth," said R. Ron Sertz, Executive Consultant of the Erie Sports Commission. "Their coordinated efforts are really making a significant difference to both the local and state-wide economies. PA Sports has demonstrated that the organization is a leader in the nation for attracting events to our various and diverse host cities, and the group continues to grow in both numbers and expertise to serve as a one-stop shop for event organizers and rights-holders throughout the nation."

Philadelphia has been the traditional home to the classic Army-Navy football game.





Left: PA Sports officers (from left) Amy Capcara, secretary, Laura Gurreri, vice-chair, Ron Sertz, chair, Derek Dawson, past chair and Mark Jeanneret, treasurer, enjoy a beautiful evening. Right: The entire PA Sports contingent represents at the 2017 TEAMS Conference.



PA Sports' members include the Butler County Sports Commission, the Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chester County CVB, Discover Lehigh Valley Sports, Erie Sports Commission, Greater Johnstown/Cambria County CVB, the Hershey Harrisburg Sports and Events Authority, PHL Sports, Sport York, Sports PITTSBURGH, Visit Luzerne County and Visit Monroeville.

The partnership between this assembly began as a way for members to collaborate with one another in an effort to find the perfect fit for an event. Leads are shared and members work together to ensure that if one destination cannot accommodate an event, others most likely can. This makes sure an event will stay in Pennsylvania, thus, helping enhance economic impact.

"The Pennsylvania Department of Tourism as well as state and local legislators from across the Commonwealth have come to recognize the tremendous impact of sports tourism, as well as the need for strong investment in this area due to the significant return," Sertz said. "PA Sports has annually demonstrated measurable results and shown a clear ability to work together as potential host cities for all types and sizes of events."

"PA Sports allows us to reach a broader group of rights holders and national governing bodies than we could if we were on our own," said Gregg Cook, sports marketing manager at Hershey-Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau. "There is strength in numbers, and this is especially true with PA Sports."

PA Sports became a reality in 2003, when its original members (Berks County, State College, Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, Valley Forge and York) all chipped in \$10,000 to begin their partnership. This milestone took place at an annual legislative dinner the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pa., with the organization's founders concocting plans for PA Sports while scribbling ideas on a napkin.

From those humble beginnings grew an institution that has helped turn Pennsylvania into one of the country's most desirable tourism locales, bringing the state major national and international exposure along with an infusion of capital. In recent years alone, Pennsylvania has hosted a slew of high-profile events, including the 2017 NFL Draft in Philadelphia,



The Tough Mudder event is held in Chester County.

the NCAA Men's Frozen Four in Pittsburgh in 2013 and in Philadelphia in 2014, the 2014 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Elite 8 in Erie, the NASCAR Pocono 400, which takes place annually in Long Pond and the Little League World Series, which unfolds annually in South Williamsport.

"PA Sports has been a huge asset for us in Philadelphia," said Larry Needle, executive director of PHL Sports. "(It has helped) us better connect with rights holders nationally while also collaborating with our counterparts across the state. We're definitely all stronger together."

While Pennsylvania has attracted a wealth of amateur and professional sporting events, it is also a major destination for college-level events. Clearly emboldened by the success that accompanied the state's most recent Frozen Four events, the NCAA awarded Pennsylvania 53 additional sporting events that will take place between 2018 and 2022, with Pittsburgh being awarded 22 preliminary rounds and finals, the most of any city in the country. Events have also been awarded to Erie, Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia and State College.

"The announcement from the NCAA demonstrates the attractiveness of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a sports destination," said Sertz. "It confirms the effectiveness of the overall marketing efforts of PA Sports and its member organizations, and further establishes Pennsylvania as a leader in sport tourism."

With so many top-notch facilities across the state, from bigger stadiums like Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia and Heinz Field in Pittsburgh to venues like 1st Summit Arena at Cambria County War Memorial in Johnstown (home to the cult classic film Slap Shot), Pennsylvania's sporting infrastructure is established, ensuring athletic events will continue to arrive in droves. And PA Sports' members are primed to accommodate them all.

"No matter the sport or size of your event, one of our 13 member destinations can serve as your perfect host city," Sertz said. "PA Sports (sportsinpa.com) is your one-stop shop for a wide range of indoor and outdoor facilities across Pennsylvania that offer easy accessibility, affordability and leisure time attractions." **SPG**

Making a Financial Impact on Pennsylvania's Communities

Success of cities big and small show the Keystone State is a sports tourism destination

Pennsylvania possesses a rich professional sports history in which its eight major league teams have combined to win a total of 27 championships.

In the past 10 years alone, the state has been the home of two Super Bowl champions (the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2009 and the Philadelphia Eagles in 2018) and three Stanley Cup champions (the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2009, 2016 and 2017).

That success has created generations of sports fans who support their teams with a fervor rarely seen in this country. An example of this can be found on numerous polls in which cities are ranked for their sports fandom. One such study, conducted by WalletHub in November of 2017, tabbed Pittsburgh as the fourth best sports city in the country and Philadelphia the sixth. No other state had two cities that ranked in the Top 10.

Not surprisingly, sports are big business in Pennsylvania. According to a recent study conducted by Pennsylvania-based Tourism Economics, sporting events held in the state drew 5.5 million visits from out-of-town travelers in 2015. Those travelers generated more than \$766 million in estimated economic impact in the state and supports more than 8,100 jobs. Events hosted or supported by PA Sports, a team of leading sports tourism organizations throughout the state, generated a total statewide estimated economic impact of \$380 million in 2016, accounting for approximately 49.6 percent of the \$766.4 million impact attributable to all statewide sports events. Sports events backed by PA Sports attracted a combined 4.3 million spectators and participants in 2016 with college events attracting nearly 1.7 million spectators and participants and professional events drawing nearly 1.3 million.

"Sporting events and competitions make a significant impact on the Pennsylvania economy, and are a major component of Pennsylvania's tourism industry," said R. Ron Sertz, chairman of PA Sports and executive consultant for the Erie Sports Commission in Erie, Pa. "While there are some areas of tourism and travel that are impacted by the economy, sports tourism has shown itself to be fairly recession-proof since families still travel for their children's participation in competitions and adults still



enjoy their personal involvement with sporting events either as a patron or a participant."

Pennsylvania has proven to be a desirable sports destination thanks in large part to its litany of enticing destinations featuring major professional sports teams and flourishing collegiate sports programs. Philadelphia, the state's biggest city, is emblematic of Pennsylvania's sports tourism success. According to a report by Visit Philadelphia, the city pulled in record numbers for total hotel occupancy in 2017 (78.2 percent) and also enjoyed record leisure room nights (1.1 million) and record Saturday night occupancy (90 percent). Its hotel occupancy numbers in 2017 represented a 334 percent increase from 1997.





The National Hockey League's Winter Classic held at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia is one of many major events the state has successfully hosted.

There are many reasons the City of Brotherly Love had such a successful tourism year, but sports, and the National Football League, in particular, played a major role. In 2017, Philadelphia hosted the NFL draft for the first time since 1961 and it resulted in a \$95-million economic impact for the city. A report published by Visit Philadelphia in partnership with Temple University's Sport Industry Research Center, found that 250,000 people visited Philadelphia for the Draft and the three days of events that coincided with it, resulting in 18,991 hotel room nights being booked. The Draft attracted attendees from 42 different states, with 92 percent of those saying the Draft was their sole purpose for visiting.

The Eagles' march to the Super Bowl also helped the city's bottom line, as the team's average regular season home attendance in 2017 was 69,596, the highest of any year this past decade. The Eagles' fruitful eight-game regular season, along with the team's two postseason home games filled restaurants, bars and hotel rooms considerably more than in years past when the team was less successful on the field.

While Pennsylvania's professional sports scene is robust, the state also attracts a slew of amateur athletes. Events in the state hosted or supported by PA Sports drew nearly 485,000 total participants to Pennsylvania with youth events attracting more than 340,000 competitors. Adult amateur events featured more than 118,000 sports participants and youth events and adult amateur events included a combined 900,000 and 400,000 million spectators and participants, respectively.

The Keystone State Games, which is Pennsylvania's largest annually held multi-sport competition featuring amateur athletes, has attracted more than 500,000 participants of various age groups since its inception in 1981. The 2018 games, which took place in July, reportedly brought in around 7,000 people to Luzerne County in Pa., including 3,500 athletes and their families along with hundreds of coaches, officials and volunteers. The previous year's games, which were held in York County, reportedly posted a \$10 million estimated economic impact.

Pittsburgh also hosted a hugely profitable event in 2017, the Pittsburgh

Vintage Grand Prix. The race, which is the nation's largest vintage race and the only one run on city streets, drew more than 100,000 spectators over the two-day race weekend, brought in almost 24,000 hotel room nights and had an economic impact of \$12.8 million. The race not only greatly boosted the city's economy, it has also donated more than \$4.7 million to two local charities, the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and the Allegheny Valley School. The 2017 race alone donated \$405,500 to those causes.

Other popular amateur events across the state include Lake Erie Cyclefest in Erie County, in which hundreds of cyclists compete over a four-day span; the Lehigh Wheelmen Donut Derby in Breinigsville, a 36-mile bicycle race where doughnuts are consumed on the ride; the Thunder in the Valley annual motorcycle rally in Johnstown, which draws motorcyclists from across the country; and the Valley Forge 5-Mile Run in Valley Forge National Historic Park, where runners in numerous age groups dash across the challenging hilly course.

The Hershey/Harrisburg region is another example of the state's flourishing youth sports scene. In 2017, Hershey/Harrisburg hosted the U.S. Junior Nationals Hershey Showcase, one of the longest-running organizations in girls basketball nationwide. The event accommodates groups from U9 to U17 and in 2017 hosted teams from 15 states and Canada. More than 4,000 spectators attended in 2017, resulting in more than 4,500 hotel rooms being utilized and recording a \$2.7 million economic impact.

"Sporting events represent an integral part of the Pennsylvania economy," said Sertz. "The market is diverse, including youth and adult amateur, college and professional events that attract out-of-town visitors to destinations across the Commonwealth. These visitors generate room nights and spending in local economies that produce substantial tax revenues and employment impacts. Thanks to the sales and marketing efforts of PA Sports, our team reports increased annual sporting events, which means a positive economic impact for Pennsylvania."

An impact that figures to continue growing as the years advance. **SPG**



VALLEY FORGE, PA

THIS HISTORIC REGION NEAR THE HEART OF PENNSYLVANIA HARBORS SEVERAL FIRST-RATE SPORTS VENUES.

1

Things to do in Valley Forge

An amazing blend of natural landmarks and modern attractions, Valley Forge offers an eclectic selection of things to do. Montgomery County's nearly **100 miles of trails** promise a different adventure in every direction. Walk, hike or run through quiet neighborhoods or lively towns for a complete picture of the city's many faces. As you continue your outdoor excursion, tour the grounds where George Washington and the Continental endured a harsh winter between 1777-78 at the **Valley Forge National Historical Park**. In addition, groups can host events and partake in various recreational activities at the park. Go from land to the sky at **iFLY Indoor Skydiving** in King of Prussia. Here, both children and adults can develop skydiving skills while floating in a wind tunnel. Instructors will treat their teams and families to an indoor flight show at the end of the session. Younger visitors will enjoy building their own inventions at the **LEGOLAND Discovery Center**. Children will be inspired by monuments crafted from over one million LEGO bricks and have loads of fun at the indoor playground's popular rides. Shoppers

will find all their gifts at the **King of Prussia Mall**, just under 20 minutes away from LEGOLAND. This 2.9 million-square-foot mall is America's largest shopping center, housing over 400 stores, seven department stores, luxury boutiques and various dining options.

How to Get to Valley Forge

Planners and teams can reach Valley Forge by driving 30 minutes from northwest Philadelphia. The PA-252, PA-23 and Interstate 76 (Pennsylvania Turnpike) are all located conveniently close to the town. Fly into the town from the **Philadelphia International Airport**, a 40-minute drive away. This airport is serviced by **American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Frontier Airlines, JetBlue, Southwest Airlines, Spirit Airlines, United Airlines** and **US Airways**.



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Planner Perspective

"The Valley Forge Invitational was a tremendous success, but wouldn't have been possible without the strong support and guidance from the Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board (VFTCB). Their involvement and leadership efforts helped to create a solid sponsorship foundation, as well as media presence, in all of the neighboring communities. We are looking forward to many years of partnership as we prepare the next generation of LPGA stars for success."

– Mike Nichols, *Chief Business Officer, LPGA Symetra Tour*



Valley Forge Sports/Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board

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1. The Proving Grounds

Sports: Field hockey, lacrosse, soccer

The Proving Grounds houses Villanova University's premier hockey stadium. This multi-purpose facility accommodates a variety of sports tournaments, including the upcoming Pro Football Hall of Fame World Youth Championship Regional Championship Series—Mid-Atlantic Region from November to December. State-of-the-art amenities, including striped tournament-approved artificial fields with surrounding lights make competing even easier.

2. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center

Sports: Basketball, billiards, futsal, martial arts, weightlifting, wrestling

The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center has seen many national sports tournaments, such as USA Weightlifting's Junior National Championships. Known as one of the East's largest indoor sports complexes, the center boasts about 240,000 square-feet of single-floor exhibition space, perfect for martial arts and wrestling competitions.

3. Valley Forge Casino Resort Event Center

Sports: Billiards, fencing, martial arts, weightlifting, wrestling

The Valley Forge Resort's Event Center has had a busy season as the most recent host of the USA Weightlifting Nike American Open Series in July 2018. With about 50,000 square-feet of multi-purpose facility space, the event center is the perfect venue for indoor sports competitions and national tournaments.

4. Competitive Edge

Sports: Basketball, futsal, volleyball

Valley Forge's Competitive Edge is another sports facility that remains consistently busy, hosting more than 10 basketball tournaments at the junior high and high school levels annually. This large complex's 6,000 square-feet of open space, five maple hardwood courts, energy efficient lighting and electronic scoreboards make it one of the most popular basketball facilities in the mid-Atlantic.

5. Germantown Academy

Sports: All

Germantown houses two gymnasiums equipped with a six-lane pool and diving boards, multipurpose wooden courts and a wrestling room complete with floor mats. One of the gyms even features a 15,000-square-foot field house with three volleyball courts, two basketball courts and a rock-climbing wall. The field house can seat 2,750 spectators.



2



3

CHESTER COUNTY, PA

A MULTITUDE OF SPORTS FACILITIES IN HISTORIC CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA MAKES IT A WINNING DESTINATION.

Chester County is rich in facilities and offers the benefits of the great outdoors. The Brandywine Valley offers wide open spaces in a dynamic park system, plus the infrastructure that includes airports, highways and great sports facilities. With three universities within Chester County, plus four private and public high schools, each with teams, plus powerful youth, club and adult programs.

Things to do in Chester County

A sporting event makes memories for its participants beyond the competition. As the planner, you're not only looking for facilities that are right for the teams, but also building a schedule of activities that ensures proper entertainments and the personal growth of new learning.

Longwood Gardens sharpens your sense of the beauty of the outdoors, with gardens, landscapes, flowers, arbors and flowering plants. Special events plus artistic performances lend an extra panache. While thinking of nature, sample Marsh Creek State Park, with outdoor activities, year 'round. Take your pick from hiking, ice-skating, canoeing, fishing on Marsh Creek Lake. Over 40 civilian and military helicopters are on display at The American Helicopter Museum and Education Center in West Chester, along with highlights, history, science and technology of those rotary-winged aviation craft.

For those who want to shop, visit Downtown West Chester, an eclectic mix of college town, county seat and historic destination. A shopping mecca where sidewalk sales are numerous, as are tongue-in-cheek events like "Touch a Truck Day." Downtown Kennett Square, just minutes from the world-famous Longwood Gardens, offers a chance to discover Main Street America, full of distinctive and independent shops, restaurants and galleries.

How to Get to Chester County

West Chester is a two-hour drive from the major population centers in New York City, Washington, D.C., Baltimore and southeastern Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Rochester and Richmond are between four to six hours away. Visitors flying into Philadelphia International Airport can reach hotels in Chester County by rental car, cab or car service, a ride of roughly 45 minutes depending on your destination.

Planner Perspective

"NXT Sports runs events across the country, and the Chester County CVB are by far our strongest local event partner. The support of the Chester County CVB has played a major role in our decision to expand NXT's local portfolio of events."

- Joel Zuercher, *President & General Counsel, NXT Sports*

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT

1. United Sports

Sports: Badminton, basketball, field hockey, flag football, gymnastics, lacrosse, pickleball, soccer, softball, volleyball, multi-purpose

The world-class United Sports, the region's largest sports facility, with both indoor and outdoor surfaces, emerged from an old airport using \$15 million in private funds, to become a top contender for your event. These 60 acres of outdoor fields and 127,000 square feet of indoor space are located in Downingtown, a southwest Philadelphia suburb in the heart of the Brandywine Valley. This facility has 11 premier fields adjacent the indoor complex, with synthetic field turf and full field lighting for night play on fields 1-4. Ten thousand square feet of parking is also available.

2. Iceline Ice Rink

Sports: Ice hockey, figure skating, ice skating

The rush to goal starts on one of four NHL-regulation ice surfaces at Ice Line Quad Rinks in West Chester, each with seating capacity of 500. Take pride presenting your event at this state-of-the-art facility, be it ice skating, figure skating or hockey. Three university teams and junior hockey teams call Iceline home with dozens of tournaments year-round in hockey, figure skating and ice skating. Goal Line Pub, located in the rink, overlooks the ice and features an extensive food and beverage menu.

3. West Chester University

Sports: Football, track and field, basketball, diving, volleyball, golf, baseball, soccer, rugby, field hockey, lacrosse, swimming

John A. Farrell Stadium contains 7,500 seats for football and track and field and Serpico Stadium features 1,000 bleacher seats for baseball fans, a natural grass surface, a scoreboard, two dugouts, two bullpens and batting cages. Hollinger Field House, located on the main campus, seats 2,500 for basketball and can also host volleyball events. John A. Rockwell Field is a soccer facility with artificial field turf and two adjacent natural grass practice fields. West Chester University Softball Field has a dirt and clay infield mix and a natural grass outfield. Graham Natatorium can host swimming, diving and water polo events.



Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau

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A large promotional graphic for Brandywine Valley sports facilities. It features a map of the Brandywine Valley region (PA, NJ, DE, MD, NY) with a red location pin. The text "CHESTER COUNTY'S BRANDYWINE VALLEY" is prominently displayed, followed by "In the Countryside of Philadelphia". The central theme is "UPGRADE YOUR GAME" in large, bold, white letters. Surrounding this text are various action shots of sports: a soccer player in a green jersey, a basketball player, a hockey player, and a person on a horse. At the bottom, the website "BRANDYWINEVALLEY.COM/SPORTS" is listed.



LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

WORLD-CLASS SPORTS AMENITIES AND ELITE ATTRACTIONS COMBINED WITH A CONVENIENT LOCATION MAKE LEHIGH VALLEY THE PRIME SPOT FOR SPORTS EVENTS.

Lehigh Valley brings together the power of three cities: Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. With the amenities of three destinations rolled into one, sports organizers have everything they need right at their fingertips. Coaches, athletes and their fans will enjoy the competition at elite sports venues, as well as all the wonderful attractions off the field. From quaint towns to rolling countrysides to metropolitan landscapes, there's something for everyone in Lehigh Valley.

Things to do in Lehigh Valley

Lehigh Valley provides visitors with a plethora of activities appropriate for all age groups and interests. Here's a fun fact you may not have known: All Crayola products are made in Lehigh Valley. The **Crayola Experience**, located in Easton, immerses guests in a colorful world where they can draw, paint and create with the latest products. There are four floors to explore, with hands-on and interactive attractions that will keep families and their kids entertained all day long.

Another fun family attraction is **Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom**. This popular spot features two parks spread across 200 acres with more than 100 rides, including seven roller coasters and the largest collection of kids' rides in Planet Snoopy.

How to Get to Lehigh Valley

Lehigh Valley is a 90-minute drive west of **Manhattan** and a 60-minute drive north of **Philadelphia**. A third of the U.S. and one-half of Canadian consumers are within a day's drive. There are three major airports with a 90-minute drive of Lehigh Valley. Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) is the fourth largest airport in Pennsylvania and offers daily nonstop flights to 11 destinations. Newark Liberty Airport (EWR) and Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) both offer daily nonstop flights to destinations all over the country and internationally.

Planner Perspective

"East Coast Volleyball has been fortunate and thankful to be working with an organization dedicated to supporting, growing and promoting our Annual East Coast Volleyball Events in the Lehigh Valley. Discover Lehigh Valley Sports is dedicated to Sports Travel Tourism Industry, and they've been with us from year one. I can't say enough regarding Discover Lehigh Valley Sports' commitment and help towards our sports events. It is truly a pleasure working with Discover Lehigh Valley Sports every year, as we look forward to a continued strong and prosperous relationship."

– Chris Ho, *President, East Coast Volleyball*

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT 🔍

1. Lehigh County Sports Fields

Sports: Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee

The Lehigh County Sports Fields are a first-class sports complex. It hosts several local and national tournaments, drawing teams from the Mid-Atlantic and Eastern states. The venue features 12+ playing areas, three of which are equipped with lights. Guests will also find a walking/running track, a picnic pavilion, and plenty of parking spaces.

2. PPL Center

Sports: Hockey, figure skating, wrestling, basketball, volleyball, indoor racing, indoor football

Located in downtown Allentown, PPL Center is a state-of-the-art arena. It's home to the Phantoms, an AHL affiliate of the NHL Philadelphia Flyers. The venue also plays host to regional events from hockey leagues and figure skating competitions to numerous NCAA championship events. The arena features on-site food, parking and seating for 8,500 for hockey games.

3. Stabler Arena

Sports: Wrestling, basketball, volleyball

Situated on the Lehigh University campus, Stabler Arena is home to the men's and women's basketball programs, as well as the university wrestling team. The facility features 5,400

seats for sports events and expands to 19,000 square feet of space with the seats retracted, allowing to accommodate for several other events.

4. Goodman Stadium & Track/Field Complex

Sports: Soccer, lacrosse, track & field, Ultimate Frisbee, cross country

Goodman Stadium is home to the Lehigh University Football team as well as the United Soccer League's (USL) Bethlehem Steel FC. This venue has a scenic view of South Mountain, and has been deemed as having the "Best Game Day Atmosphere in the Patriot League." It has seating for 16,000 people and a natural grass surface. The Goodman Track & Field Complex is the main residence for the university's men's and women's outdoor track and field program. It has nine lanes surfaced with ProTurf, a high jump area, long jump pit, pole vault mat and throwing area.



Discover Lehigh Valley Sports

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EXCITING VENUES, CONVENIENT LOCATION

Located just 90 minutes west of New York City and 60 minutes north of Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley offers unique—and exciting—venues for all sports in a convenient location.

DiscoverLehighValley.com/Sports



ERIE, PA

THE LAKEFRONT CITY OF ERIE IS A PREMIER DESTINATION FOR SPORTS PLANNERS WHO SEEK QUALITY FACILITIES AND A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO SPORTS.

Sports play an important role in the community of Erie, Pennsylvania, and the region has developed a strong reputation as a premier destination for athletes and sports groups. With a supportive local staff ready to assist in planning events for a wide range of sports, Erie is truly a sporting destination not to be missed.

Things to do in Erie

What trip to Erie is complete without a visit to the city's namesake? Head to the shores of Lake Erie and take in the natural beauty at **Presque Isle State Park** (French for "almost an island"). Here you can meander along seven miles of sandy beaches, enjoy a picnic with friends and teammates, hike along the 25 miles of trails or rent a kayak and explore by water. Whether you prefer to explore at a leisurely pace or have a need for speed, there are numerous ways to explore Presque Isle: Surreys, water skis, boats, bikes or your own two feet.

Get your adrenaline pumping at **Waldameer Park & Water World**, near the entrance to Presque Isle State Park, and test your fears on the Ravine Flyer II – voted one of the best wooden roller coasters in the world

How to Get to Erie

For a road trip, you can get to Erie easily via I-79 from **Pittsburgh** and I-90 from **Cleveland** and **Buffalo**. Erie International Airport is served by three major airline carriers—United, Delta and American Airlines—with nonstop flights to Detroit, Chicago and Philadelphia, and connections to over 1,100 different destinations.

Planner Perspective

"I was amazed at the various aspects and details of our Stars and Stripes Gymnastics Invitational that the Sports Commission was able to assist with. The Erie Sports Commission was instrumental in assisting the host organization, Erie Gymnastics, with high-profile promotions, and was also vital in establishing contacts and working with local hotels to provide benefits to both Erie Gymnastics and our visiting athletes. I highly recommend the Erie Sports Commission, and will use them for future events."
– Doug Pershun, Stars and Stripes Gymnastics Invitational

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT 🔍

1. Presque Isle State Park/ Presque Isle Bay

Sports: Running, beach volleyball, bicycle, fishing, beach sports, triathlon

Presque Isle State Park, a forested peninsula jutting into Lake Erie, is perfect for all of your outdoor pursuits. Across 3,200 acres you will find seven miles of sandy beaches with boat launches as well as flat trails that are ideal for cycling, running, triathlon and beach sports events. The peninsula creates Presque Isle Bay, which is protected from Lake Erie, full of some of the best bass fishing in the country, and provides a perfect location for fishing tournaments.

2. Erie Insurance Arena

Sports: Hockey, indoor football, basketball, wrestling

Located in the heart of downtown Erie, this multipurpose indoor arena is ideal for hosting any number of sports, including hockey, basketball and wrestling. The arena underwent a \$47 million restoration and expansion in 2014 that has made it bigger and better than ever. And organizers agree – as the venue has hosted major events including the 2018 College Hockey Inc. Ice Breaker Tournament and 2014 NCAA Women's Division II Basketball Elite Eight.

3. Bayfront Convention Center

Gymnastics, fitness/physique, cheerleading

Need space for your next event? The Bayfront Convention Center is made to host your group in style. The 100,000 square foot facility regularly hosts some of the largest gymnastics and billiards tournaments in the state, and the staff is well versed in accommodating a variety of events. Treat your spectators to easy access with nearly 500 free parking spaces and two adjoining hotels that are perfect for hosting spectators and athletes.

4. ErieBank Sports Park

Sports: Soccer, ice hockey, lacrosse, basketball, volleyball

The former Family First Sports Park went through a \$9.1 million renovation in 2018 that saw the installation of two NHL regulation-size ice rinks, construction of eight locker rooms, resurfacing of the four-court gymnasium and restoration of the ten outdoor grass fields, among other improvements. The facility, northwestern Pennsylvania's largest, encompasses 43 acres of land in the heart of Erie's shopping and entertainment district on Interstate 90



Erie Sports Commission

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MARK JEANNERET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BEN HUGGLER, EVENT SERVICES MANAGER
EMILY BIDDLE, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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WALDAMEER

presque isle
state park



GREATER JOHNSTOWN

NESTLED IN THE ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS OF PENNSYLVANIA, VISITORS COME FOR THE SPORTS AND STAY FOR THE SCENIC BEAUTY AND WEALTH OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

Things to do in Johnstown and Cambria County

The sports scene in Johnstown is flourishing, and continuing to grow. It has brought visitors from near and far who enjoy the quality venues and friendly event staff. The ideal sports destination encompasses a host of activities: cultural, historic, recreational, and scenic. In Greater Johnstown and Cambria County, you will find all of this, and more.

Did you know Johnstown is a world record holder for the steepest vehicular inclined plane? Well, you can experience this for yourself by hitching a ride on the funicular that will take you soaring up the **Johnstown Inclined Plane** – a thrilling and scenic experience not to be missed when visiting the region! Another unique Johnstown experience is **Coal Tubin' on the Stonycreek River**. For a bit more of an active outing and one that is great for groups, try your hand at **Geocaching on the Johnstown GeoTrail**. Geocaching utilizes GPS to guide participants through interesting locales and with the goal of locating a hidden box or “cache” that contains small trinkets for trading. Another popular destination for groups is the **Ghost Town Trail**, where visitors can enjoy walking, running, or biking along developed paths that lead through abandoned coal-mining communities – an important part of the region’s history.

How to Get to Johnstown

Located about 70 miles east of Pittsburgh and 80 miles southwest of State College, PA, Johnstown is a great destination for those traveling by car. This allows for flexibility to travel throughout Cambria County and experience all of the sports venues and recreation facilities that the area has to offer. Thanks to the local John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport, visitors can easily travel directly to and from both Baltimore and Pittsburgh, making for a quick simple trip.

Planner Perspective

“Johnstown has been the host city for the PA Junior Wrestling Junior High State Championship Tournament for the past three years and we’ve been extremely pleased with the support we’ve received. The city, the business community and the Convention & Visitors Bureau have done everything possible to make this a first-class event for the young wrestlers and their families. We hope to continue holding our tournament in Johnstown for the next several years.”

– George LeGrand, *Tournament Director*

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT 🔍

1. 1st Summit Arena @ Cambria County War Memorial

Sports: Hockey, basketball, cheerleading, skating, wrestling

As one of the premier sports facilities in Cambria County, the 1st Summit Arena has become a go-to for sports planners looking for top quality amenities and event planning assistance. This 4,000-seat arena has hosted tournaments, games, concerts, and more! Home to both a local junior and university hockey team, 1st Summit Arena caters to both players and fans, offering plenty of parking options, concessions, restrooms and player facilities. Helpful staff are available to assist with event planning – see how 1st Summit Arena can take your event from good to great!

2. Sargent's Stadium at the Point

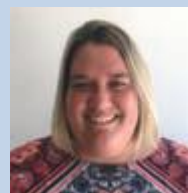
Sports: Baseball, football

For a top-notch baseball facility right in downtown Johnstown, check out Sargent's Stadium at the Point. Named for its position at the confluence of the three rivers, the park is both scenic and practical. It is home to the annual All American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) national tournament, and is also used for local high school football games. For those looking to plan an event in the heart of Johnstown, Sargent's Stadium is not to be missed.

3. Rock Run Recreation Area

Sports: ATV, dirt biking

The Allegheny Mountains are a beautiful backdrop within Cambria County – so why not get out and enjoy the views from above on the back of a bike? There are over 140 miles of trails within the Rock Run Recreation Area just waiting to be explored, and the area has become a popular weekend getaway for ATV, dirt bike, OHV and side-by-side enthusiasts! Events such as Rock Run's Summer Blast and Rally at the Rock are just a couple examples of ways in which sports lovers make the most of the Allegheny Mountain trails.



Greater Johnstown/ Cambria County CVB

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HERSHEY HARRISBURG, PA

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A Sweet Place to Play

Hosting an event in the Hershey Harrisburg Region means that you and your teams, attendees and participants get to experience the downtown buzz of Pennsylvania's capital city (Harrisburg) and the sights, sounds and tastes of Hershey in the same trip. Hershey and Harrisburg are just a few miles apart, and each location has a long list of facilities, hotels, benefits and amenities that are attractive to sports and events rights holders. The many attractions in Hershey are huge draws for sports planners because they know it's a destination well suited for family travel. It's home to **Hersheypark®**, a world-class theme park with 13 (as of 2018) roller coasters, family and children's rides and a huge waterpark. One of the region's most visited attractions is **Hershey's Chocolate World Attraction**, where guests create their own candy bar and take a FREE simulated chocolate factory tour. The Hershey Harrisburg Region is home to four professional teams: Harrisburg Senators baseball, Hershey Bears® Hockey, Harrisburg Heat indoor soccer and PennFC USL soccer.

How to Get to Hershey Harrisburg By Car:

Hershey and Harrisburg are easily accessible and located just three hours or less from high population centers on the East Coast. Take I-81, I-83, the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Route 11 from destinations including **Philadelphia, New York City, Baltimore/Washington D.C.** and **Pittsburgh**. Just 20 minutes away from the city, the Harrisburg International Airport travels non-stop to 12 destinations over the course of 70 flights each day.

Planner Perspective

"From the initial planning process through execution on race day, Hershey Harrisburg Sports & Events Authority paved the way for an amazing first-year event. Their in-depth knowledge of local venues, relationship with key hospitality leaders and contacts with sponsors and all levels of regional government were catalysts to our success. While HHSE represents a vibrant mid-major market, it operates like a big league DMO."

– Steve Meckfessel, *National Series Director, Fondo Cycling Circuit USA (Harrisburg, August 2018)*

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT 🔍

1. Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center

Sports: Archery, basketball, fencing, indoor soccer, martial arts, volleyball, wrestling

Each year, the multi-purpose Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center hosts a variety of exciting sports events, highlighted by the USJN Hershey Showcase and four Keystone Regional Volleyball Association events. The USJN Hershey Showcase is a four-day girls basketball event drawing more than 200 teams to compete on 20 courts, while the KRVA events each use up to 29 courts for both boys and girls tournaments. Both events take place in the complex's 172,000-square-foot Expo Hall. The complex is home to the Harrisburg Heat pro indoor soccer team, which plays its home games in the 7,300-seat New Holland Arena. Event organizers enjoy the seemingly unlimited setup options in a facility that boasts seven halls, three arenas, banquet space and a full catering kitchen.

2. Giant CenterSM

Sports: Basketball, cheer, ice sports, wrestling

Giant CenterSM is the regular venue for the Hershey Bears AHL hockey team. This state-of-the-art, 10,500-seat arena hosts ice shows, concerts, state high school championships (wrestling, competitive cheer and basketball), graduations, and more. The U.S. Figure Skating Eastern Sectional Synchronized Skating

Championships have been held here on several occasions. The Harlem Globetrotters and WWE shows come to town regularly, and fans have been entertained by musical acts ranging from Carrie Underwood to Van Halen. In 2016, the facility invested \$4.7 million for a new scoreboard, LED electronics and production system.

3. FNB Field

Sports: Baseball, soccer

Situated in the state's capital along the Susquehanna River, FNB Field is home to the Harrisburg Senators, the Washington Nationals' AA affiliate. When the Senators are out of town, the grounds crew flips the field to host Penn FC professional soccer. In 2009, FNB Field underwent a major \$45 million renovation project. The stadium now houses luxury seating, a high-definition field lighting system, a "Midway" activities center for families and children, 20 suites with skyline views, a new sound system, press box with digital amenities and a reserved parking lot. FNB Field is the main attraction on the 62-acre City Island, which also features a multi-purpose grass field, riverside park, launching site for river cruises, miniature golf and more.



Hershey Harrisburg Sports & Events Authority

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HERSHEY HARRISBURG
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PHILADELPHIA, PA

HOME TO NINE PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS, NEARLY 100 COLLEGIATE INSTITUTIONS AND COUNTLESS SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS, PHILADELPHIA IS A WORLD-CLASS SPORTS DESTINATION.

Philadelphia is the sixth largest city in the country, with a population of more than 1.5 million, and is one of the oldest cities in the United States, founded in 1682. Thus, the city is a popular destination for lovers of history and those who crave a wide variety of entertainment options in a bustling metropolis.

Things to do in Philadelphia

Visitors to Philadelphia's Historic District will experience a wealth of captivating experiences. The district includes some of the nation's most important monuments and attractions, including the **Liberty Bell**, where travelers can enjoy an up-close view of the famously cracked relic; **Independence Hall**, the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; and the **National Constitution Center**, which brings the Constitution to life by hosting interactive exhibits. The Historic District is also home to Philadelphia-themed mini-golf, a world-class waterfront park and delicious food. The **Philadelphia Museum of Art** houses a world-renowned collection of art in a landmark building and is one of the most visited museums in the world. It also is known as the home of the famous **Rocky statue** and the **Rocky Steps**, 72 stone steps Sylvester Stallone triumphantly

ascended in the film *Rocky*. Once at the top of the steps, sightseers can enjoy the picturesque view of **Eakins Oval**, the **Benjamin Franklin Parkway** and **Philadelphia City Hall**.

Just west of the Philadelphia Museum of Art resides Boathouse Row, where 19th-century boathouses line the Schuylkill River. **Boathouse Row** features a series of historic structures, including Fairmount Park's recreation center and Lloyd Hall. At night, these buildings are illuminated, offering one of the city's most majestic views.

How to Get to Philadelphia

Philadelphia is connected to several major highways including the PA Turnpike (I-276), I-76, I-476, I-95, U.S. 1 and the New Jersey Turnpike. The Philadelphia International Airport is approximately seven miles from Center City and offers frequent service for more than 25 major airlines.

Planner Perspective

"Best draft experience ever. The standard has been set for every future draft city to try and match."
– Trey Wingo, *ESPN-2017 NFL Draft*

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT

1. Lincoln Financial Field

Sports: Football, Soccer, lacrosse

Home of the Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles, Lincoln Financial Field is also the stadium where the Temple Owls football team competes. With a seating capacity of 69,176, "The Linc" recently completed a \$125 million renovation. It serves as home of the classic Army-Navy Game, hosts numerous NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championships and entertained many international soccer matches, including the FIFA Women's World Cup, Gold Cup, Copa America and U.S. Men's National Team competitions. Lincoln Financial Field will also host the 2019 NHL Stadium Series with the Philadelphia Flyers hosting the Pittsburgh Penguins, and the 2019 & '20 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championships.

2. Wells Fargo Center

Sports: Basketball, hockey, wrestling

This multi-purpose indoor arena is the home of the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers and the National Basketball Association's Philadelphia 76ers. The arena has hosted many NCAA events, including Basketball, Hockey (Frozen Four) and Wrestling Championships, multiple WWE premier events, the 2016 Democratic National Convention and the 2002 NBA All-Star Game. The arena is a part of the South Philadelphia Sports Complex, which also includes Xfinity Live, an indoor/outdoor dining and entertainment venue located next door. The Wells Fargo Center seats 20,478 and is currently going through a three-phase \$250 million renovation that will be completed by 2021.

3. Talen Energy Stadium

Sports: Soccer, rugby, lacrosse, football, ultimate frisbee

A soccer-specific stadium located outside Philadelphia, Talen Energy Stadium is the home stadium of Major League Soccer's Philadelphia Union. It opened in 2010 at a cost of \$120 million, resides on Chester's waterfront along the Delaware River and has a capacity of 18,500. The stadium has played host to the MLS All-Star Game, quarterfinals of the NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship, the NCAA Women's Lacrosse Championships, the annual Collegiate Rugby Championships and Army-Navy Soccer Cup. Talen Energy has also hosted international rugby matches including the US Men's National Team and the world-famous New Zealand All Blacks.

4. Citizens Bank Park

Sports: Baseball, hockey, races

Citizens Bank Park is the home park of Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies. Opened in 2004, the 43,000-seat ballpark includes Ashburn Alley and All-Star Walk, which pays tribute to Phillies players that have played in the MLB All-Star Game. In 2012, the stadium hosted the NHL's Winter Classic on New Year's Day, as well as a number of Spartan Races and other events.



PHL SPORTS

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*Sports Business Journal
2018 "Sports Event of the Year" - 2017 NFL Draft: Philadelphia

Photo by Anthony Sinagoga



YORK, PA

MAKE YOUR YORK SPORTS EVENT STAND OUT WITH TOP-NOTCH FACILITIES, CHEER-WORTHY ATTRACTIONS AND A CONVENIENT LOCATION EVERYONE WILL APPRECIATE.

Considered a top sports area in Pennsylvania, York is brimming with first-class facilities, a range of attractions, comfortable lodging options and an athletic spirit that rivals many big cities. Its convenient location also makes it incredibly accessible from practically anywhere in the country.

Things to do in York County

As the Factory Tour Capital of the World, York gives you a behind-the-scenes look at how some of America's most well-known products are made. Step onto the factory floor at **Harley-Davidson** and see the motorcycles come to life; look down on the immense potato chip operations at **Utz Quality Foods**; watch as natural body care products are created at **Sunrise Soap Company**; or enjoy warm samples of chips fresh out of the fryer at **Martin's Snack Foods**.

Discover York County's compelling past at some of its historic sites and museums, including the **National Clock & Watch Museum**, the **Teaching Museum for the Fiber Arts & Textiles**, the **York County History Center**. History buffs will love the newest attraction, **Steam Into History**, a replica of a Civil War-era train that acts as a traveling museum.

Outdoor enthusiasts will have no shortage of things to do. York County features many parks offering hiking and biking trails, water activities, and golf courses. Explore nearly 30 miles of trails on the **York Country Heritage Rail Trail** or enjoy ziplining in the summer and skiing in the winter at **Roundtop Mountain Resort**.

How to Get to York County

York is situated off I-83, just south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and a quick drive from I-95, I-495 and I-695. The area is less than 100 miles from major cities including **Baltimore, Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Wilmington**. York sits in between Baltimore-Washington International Airport and Harrisburg International airport.

Planner Perspective

"We had the pleasure of working with the staff at the York City Ice Arena to host the 2017 Special Olympics Pennsylvania Figure Skating State Games. The arena was very accommodating and made our athletes feel like celebrities. We look forward to working with them on more events!"

– Gina Reid, Sr. Competition Director,
Special Olympics Pennsylvania

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT

1. York Expo Center

Sports: Wrestling, volleyball, floor hockey, cheerleading, gymnastics, cross country

With indoor and outdoor facilities, the 120-acre York Expo Center offers versatile space that allows it to serve a wide range of sports events. The venue consists of the 74,000-square-foot Utz Arena with a capacity of 5,500; the 58,000-square-foot Memorial Hall with a capacity of 4,000; and the 10,000-capacity Grandstand. It has welcomed events like the Tyrant Wrestling's Columbus Day Duals, the USA Wrestling Cadet Duals, the MLK Kickoff Classic, the MAPL Girls Volleyball Tournament, the Blue Ribbon Brawl Volleyball Tournament, and the Keystone State Games Floor Hockey.

2. Memorial Park Softball Complex

Sports: Baseball, cross country, kickball, sand volleyball, softball

A multi-sport venue, Memorial Park Softball Complex has hosted several events for USA Softball, the Pennsylvania State Championships, and USA Softball Eastern Nationals. The 72-acre park features an eight-field softball complex, which includes Hoffman Stadium. Four of the fields are lighted. The facility also has four sand volleyball courts, batting cages, miniature golf, a skate park, picnic areas and spectator seating for 1,100.

3. Graham Aquatic Center

Sports: Swimming

The Graham Aquatic Center features 33,000 square feet of flexible indoor and outdoor space, making it an ideal spot for swimming events. It has hosted the PSAC Swimming Championships; MAC Swimming Championships; and the Middle Atlantic JO Swimming Championships. The complex can be adjusted for 16 25-yard lanes or eight 25-meter lanes inside and four 25-meter lanes outside.

4. PeoplesBank Park

Sports: Baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, football, soccer, softball

Formerly known as Santander Stadium, PeoplesBank Park is one of the top sports venues in York County. Home to the York Revolution baseball team, this stadium has all the amenities for a baseball competition. It can also host a variety of other sports events, from football and lacrosse to soccer and field hockey. The stadium seats 6,500 people, and features full concessions, picnic areas, locker rooms and banquet facilities.



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BUTLER COUNTY, PA

THIS COUNTY'S MOST IMPRESSIVE FEATURE IS ITS WIDE VARIETY OF SPORTS FACILITIES, MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR NUMEROUS PLANNERS TO HOST THEIR TOURNAMENTS AT ONCE.

Things to do in Butler County

Butler County is known to many as one of the top nature-filled destinations of the Northeast. Explore the nearly 16,800-acre, **Moraine State Park** where there are thousands of trails for every outdoor activity, including biking, snowmobiling, hiking and swimming. Visitors may even go sailing on the park's Lake Arthur

Take the excitement indoors to **Butler County's three indoor trampoline parks**. In particular **BounceU** and **Get Air Pittsburgh's newest locations** indoor parks offer fun party packages including dodge balls, cushy inflatables, foam pits and a ninja course. The **Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park** features themed packages of trampolines and live entertainment for all ages.

How to Get to Butler County

Planners that are driving to Butler County are within reasonable distances from big cities such as **Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, New York City** and **Baltimore**. The **Pittsburgh International Airport**, just 30 minutes away from Butler's county line, is the most convenient airport to get to where you need to be.

Planner Perspective

"For over 15 years I have been organizing events in Butler County. I now organize the only Triathlon Series in the county. I could not do this without the support of the county, Moraine State Park and most of all, Butler County Tourism and the Butler County Sports Commission. Their support helps us to secure our location, sponsors, vendors and participants. Butler County has so much to offer. If you have not been to an event in our county, please join us. If you are looking to hold an event, look no further than Butler County."

– Joella Baker, *Get Fit Families/Mighty Moraine Man Race Series*:

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT 🔍

1. UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex

Sports: Hockey

The UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex is the primary practice and training facility for the Pittsburgh Penguins, as well as a comprehensive outpatient facility for UPMC Sports Medicine. This multi-use facility is a destination for athletes of all ages and skill levels seeking sports medicine, performance, and rehabilitation expertise as well as hockey-specific skills and performance training. The UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex prepares athletes of all levels and hosts various tournaments, such as the United States Hockey League.

2. Cooper's Lake

Sports: Various

More than 450 acres with a variety of terrains will suit your needs, including a 10-acre lake, wooded areas and mowed fields. The rolling hills, countryside and backcountry trails contributes to a challenging obstacle course, making Cooper's Lake a recurring destination for Pittsburgh's Tough Mudder. This hardcore, 10-12 mile obstacle course includes mud run challenges designed to test strength, stamina, teamwork and mental grit.

3. Slippery Rock University

Sports: Baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, track and field, volleyball

Known as one of Western Pennsylvania's largest college campuses, Slippery Rock University covers 611 acres and houses 17 varsity sports in several modern facilities. These include, a baseball stadium with 1,800+ seats, a Stadium that can host multiple sports, including football, lacrosse, soccer, field hockey, and track and field.



Butler County Sports Commission Brianna Kaiser

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STATE COLLEGE, PA

HOME TO A MAJOR UNIVERSITY WITH A STRONG SPORTS HISTORY, THE STATE COLLEGE REGION ALLOWS SPORTS PLANNERS TO DREAM BIG.

Snowcapped mountains, scenic valleys, and lush forests comprise the diverse geographic setting of Centre Country in Central Pennsylvania. Whether you're visiting in the middle of winter or the heat of the summer, there are always countless outdoor activities that await and plenty of cultural experiences, international dining options, and vibrant entertainment options.

For a unique experience, check out **Penn's Cave**, where you will be guided by boat through a series of limestone caverns, followed by a trip to the adjoining **Wildlife Park**, where you can get a firsthand glimpse at animals such as bobcats, bison and deer. Nature lovers will also enjoy a visit to the **Shavers Creek Environmental Center** with its interactive Discover Center, hiking trails, and Raptor Center. Those looking to learn more about the region's history will enjoy a tour of the **Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum**, where the former is a chapel transported from Spain in 1909 and the latter of which was home to eight generations of the Boal family for over 200 years and still contains original furnishings.

Since there will certainly be no shortage of sports fans among your group, take some time to learn more about the athletic history and heritage of Penn State at the **Penn State All-Sports Museum**. A trip to State College wouldn't be complete without making time for the great outdoors. **Tussey Mountain** welcomes visitors year-round, for skiing, snowboarding, and tubing in the winter and go-karting, mini golf, concerts, festivals and more throughout the rest of the year.

Getting to State College

Central Pennsylvania is located about 1.5 hours northwest of **Harrisburg** on US 322 W and just over 3 hours northwest of **Philadelphia** on I-76 and US-22. For those traveling from the west, **Pittsburgh** is just over 3 hours away along I-99 and US-22. **State College** boasts its own airport, University Park Airport, which is located just minutes from the center of town.

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT

1. Bryce Jordan Center

Sports: Basketball, hockey, multi-purpose

Home to the nationally acclaimed Penn State men's and women's basketball teams and the site of major events such as university commencement, this 16,000-seat arena sees hundreds of thousands of fans come and go each year. It offers players and fans state-of-the-art facilities, locker rooms, sound systems and concessions.

2. Beaver Stadium

Sports: Football

It's hard to imagine a more perfect setting for football. Situated on the edge of the Penn State campus is a stadium of epic proportions – in fact, with a seating capacity of more than 106,000, Beaver Stadium is the second-largest stadium in the Western Hemisphere and the third largest in the world. Inside you will find all that you would expect in a world-class facility, and planning your next event here is sure to impress even the most devoted sports fans.

3. Toftrees Golf Resort

Sports: Golf

Toftrees Golf Resort is more than just a course – it's truly an experience for players and visitors alike. Nestled among a scenic 1500-acre forest in a serene setting, Toftrees has attracted top national talent, and the adjoining Resort & Conference Center is regularly recognized by Golf Digest for its comfort and amenities. Located just three miles from the PSU campus, the resort offers free parking and over 100 hotel rooms to accommodate large events.



**Central Pennsylvania
Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Shirley Smith

Director of Sales

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LUZERNE COUNTY, PA

LOCATED IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE POCONO MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA, LUZERNE COUNTY IS DEDICATED TO CREATING MEMORABLE SPORTS EVENTS FOR PLANNERS, ATHLETES AND SPECTATORS.

Things to do in Luzerne County

With a continental climate that sees four distinct seasons throughout the year, Luzerne County is fit to host all sporting events, whether indoors or outdoors.

Montage Mountain Waterpark and Ski Resort in Scranton provides top-notch skiing in the winter and water-filled fun in the summer, with a wave pool, lazy river and countless exhilarating slides. For athletes and families visiting Luzerne County during chillier winter months, a day spent at **Skyzone Trampoline Park** in Pittston invites sports teams to bounce around in a huge pool of foam squares in the **Foam Zone**, or soar through the air for a pickup game of basketball in the **SkySlam** area. Known as the nation's largest free-admission amusement park, **Knoebels Amusement Park** in Elysburg provides endless hours of classic rollercoasters, swimming, camping, kid-friendly rides and golfing.

How to Get to Luzerne County

Spanning the border between Luzerne County and Lackawanna County, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport (AVP) is the fifth largest airport in Pennsylvania, the primary airport of Northeast Pennsylvania and the best way to reach Luzerne County by air. Luzerne County is located at a crossroads in Northeast Pennsylvania, with Interstate Highways I-80, I-84, I-380 and I-476 being the main ways to reach the area by car if coming from any Western, Southern or Midwest states. If coming from the east, take I-95 to I-84.

Planner Perspective

"Luzerne County has so many awesome facilities and we are proud to bring back to the area the Keystone State Games and the Senior Games for 2018/2019. Just about any sport has a venue and the people at Visit Luzerne County make planning an event or tournament simply easy with coordination of hotels, venues and sponsorships."

– James Costello, *Keystone State Game*,
Executive Director

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT 🔍

1. Mohegan Sun Arena

Sports: Basketball, boxing, bowling, rodeo, table tennis, lacrosse

With a convenient location right off of Highway Interstate I-81 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Mohegan Sun Arena is a 10,000-seat multi-purpose venue that is consistently ranked amongst the top venues in the world according to Billboard Magazine. Previously home to NCAA Division 1 and professional basketball tournaments and games, the arena also has 30,000 available square feet of indoor meeting space and over 245,000 square feet of outdoor meeting space.

2. Toyota SportsPlex

Sports: Hockey, curling, figure skating

Serving as the official practice facility for the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins and the Wilkes-Barre Junior Pens, Toyota SportsPlex is Luzerne County's go-to complex for winter sports. The facility offers programming for adult and youth teams of all ages and skill levels. The figure skating program features coaches who were all once competitive skaters, and the facility's camps and clinics offer instruction from current and former professional players.

3. Drifton Softball Complex

Sports: Baseball, softball

Drifton Softball Complex in Freeland is a one-stop shop for all things baseball and softball. Located off of Highway Interstate I-81, Drifton offers elite baseball and softball training, lessons, cage rentals and more. Consisting of four lighted outdoor fields, the facility has a capacity of 1,000 seats.



Visit Luzerne County-Northeast PA

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MONROEVILLE, PA

A COMBINATION OF CONVENIENCE, AFFORDABILITY, ENTERTAINMENT AND TOP-NOTCH ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAKES MONROEVILLE YOUR SPORTING PLACE.

We all have our favorites. Favorite color, favorite food, favorite book. When it comes to a favorite spot, especially for a sports event, it's a little harder to pick. It's difficult to find a location that lives up to the high expectations of a seasoned sports planner. But Monroeville, PA may just become that favorite place for your athletic competitions.

Things to do in Monroeville

For something the whole family—or team—will enjoy, head over to Kennywood Park. This traditional amusement park has been around since 1898, and features six roller coasters, a 14-ride Kiddieland and several other exciting attractions. Or you can get your thrills at Sand Castle Water Park, where visitors can splash around in the wave pool, float on a lazy river, or speed down one of 15 waterslides.

Combine education and entertainment at the Carnegie Science Center. It features four floors of interactive exhibits, where visitors can learn about the science behind robotics or travel back in time aboard the Cold War-era submarine. An icon of the area, the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium have been part of the community since 1898.

How to Get to Monroeville

Monroeville is accessible from the Pennsylvania Turnpike, I-376 and Route 22. It's within driving distance of numerous major cities, including Cleveland, Philadelphia, Detroit, Toronto, and Washington, D.C. Monroeville is 12 miles from downtown Pittsburgh and 31 miles from the Pittsburgh International Airport. PIT has 74 nonstop flights on 17 airlines, and several of the routes are offered year-round.

Planner Perspective

"Amy is one of the best, if not the best, in the business! Her insight and knowledge of the industry is second to none! When you contact her for help, she's on it! She is always there when you need her and you can count on her to come through for you!"

– Matthew DeSantis, *Atlantic Coast Sports*

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT

1. Monroeville Convention Center

Sports: Wrestling, cheerleading, dance, boxing

Located 12 miles east of downtown Pittsburgh, the Monroeville Convention Center is right in the heart of the action. It's near great dining, shopping and entertainment, and offers convenient lodging for all tournament attendees at the DoubleTree by Hilton. The 100,000-square-foot facility offers flexible space to accommodate a variety of sports, including the Tyrant Wrestling event.

2. Monroeville Baseball Park

Sports: Baseball, softball

Part of the Monroeville parks and recreation, the Monroeville Baseball Park hosts several baseball and softball events. It's home to Atlantic Coast Baseball games, as well as regional and local tournaments. It features four baseball fields with new turf, concessions, restrooms and pavilions.

3. The Club Sport and Health

Sports: Gymnastics, tennis, swimming, cornhole

The Club Sport and Health is a multi-purpose athletic facility that welcomes traditional sports events, as well as offbeat tournaments, like ones hosted by the American Cornhole Organization. The 150,000-square-foot venue has a full-size basketball court, seven regulation sized tennis courts, full 100-yard turf, and indoor/outdoor pool, five batting cages and a golf simulator.



Visit Monroeville

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