

## Helpful hints for visiting York's Wild Kingdom



Consider viewing the YWK map ahead of time to plan your day, locate restrooms, and identify attractions of interest, and those you may want to avoid. If appropriate, consider printing the map and sharing it with your child. The map will give your child an idea of what they will be doing and seeing when they go to YWK and provide a visual for discussions. The map can be viewed and/or downloaded from their website: <http://www.yorkswildkingdom.com/>

Amusement rides, animals, and people can be noisy. You may want to consider headphones or earplugs for your child if they are sensitive to noises.

The Park is spread out with lots of walking, so bring a stroller for your younger family members. You can also rent a stroller or a wheelchair at the Park.

Bring quarters if your family will want to feed the ducks, deer, and goats. Food dispensers are located near their areas. Consider packing some wet ones or baby wipes as hands can get messy.

Be aware that YWK does not have straws for drinking at the park as they are a choking hazard for the animals if dropped and left.

The Butterfly Kingdom is a fascinating exhibit, but there are a few things to know ahead of time so you can plan ahead and decide if it is appropriate for your family members: The butterflies fly freely around the exhibit and will land on you, so your child will need to be ok with this. Also, the butterflies are delicate and fragile, so swatting or brushing them is detrimental to their health. Please prepare your children ahead of time by reminding them they are not allowed to touch the butterflies.

YWK allows guests to enter and exit the park throughout the day using their beachside entrance. So take some time to explore York Beach and downtown area.

If you have family members with special dietary needs or preferences, you can bring your own lunches to the park or purchase food at the kiosks located throughout the park. Take advantage of the picnic area to enjoy some down time while you eat.

You will have to exit the Zoo through YWK gift shop, so again, consider a plan for this and be prepared. You know your child best!

**Amusement Rides:** For those children who are new to the experience of amusement park rides, the following suggestions may be helpful.

- Safety should be the foremost factor in your decisions for the amusement rides. You know your child best, so use your discretion when making choices about rides and games.
- Knowing ahead of time which rides are appropriate for your child will help eliminate disappointment. The park website list all the rides, as well as the requirements related to your child's height and which rides a child can ride alone or which ones your child will need to have an adult with them. Reviewing the website ahead of time is suggested: <http://www.yorkswildkingdom.com/>
- Waiting in line to ride on an amusement ride can increase exposure to lots of sensory stimulus. You may want to consider having one family member waiting in line as a "place marker" for your child. If you choose this method please make sure your child is near enough (to the ride) so when it's their turn to board the ride they aren't holding up the line.
- When your child boards the ride make sure the safety restraints are appropriate for your child and are fastened properly.
- Your child should be able to independently follow the safety instructions/rules for any ride they are going on alone.

#### **Other fun places to visit while at York Beach**

York's Wild Kingdom is steps away from downtown York Beach and the oceanfront and beach. We have gathered some ideas for other fun things to do while you visit. So feel free to explore these places as a break throughout the day or before or after your visit.

- York Beach Oceanfront is only a couple blocks past the beachside entrance to YWK.
- Downtown shops and Restaurants
- Arcade
- York Beach Fire Department: located across the street from the Zoo. We are told they welcome visitors.
- There is a baseball field adjacent from the Zoo- great place to run!