

## Tourism Impact in York County

Explore York, York County's Official Destination Marketing Organization, significantly benefits area businesses and residents through our tourism promotion efforts. The tourism sector is vital to our economy, generating revenue, creating job opportunities, and paving the way for reinvestment in projects and events to continue the cycle. The impact of tourism is felt through visitor spending across retail, entertainment, food & beverage, transportation, and lodging segments as visitors spend more than \$1 billion in York County annually. In addition, York County employs more than 7,900 people in the travel & tourism industry and our tourism economy generated \$58 million in state and local taxes, providing direct tax relief for York County residents.

### Mission

Explore York's Mission is to maximize tourism expenditures and their economic impact in York County, PA, through comprehensive tourism sales and marketing programs.

### Vision

Explore York's Vision is for a York County where tourism is recognized for the value of its economic impact and its role in raising the profile of York County as a sought-after destination.

### Budget & Structure

\$4 million. Explore York is a private not-for-profit 501(c)6 organization.

### Designations

Explore York is designated by municipalities representing more than 50 percent of York County's population and the York County Commissioners as the Official Tourist Promotion Agency for York County. Explore York is a member of Destinations International (DI).

### Operation

Explore York operates on a July 1- June 30 fiscal year. The Board of Directors approves the annual budget by June of the previous year. Explore York is audited annually by an independent accounting firm.

## Board of Directors

**Chair:** Dan Johnson  
Advanced Industrial Services

**Vice Chair:** Glenn Smith  
Brewery Tours

**Treasurer:** Robert Berkebile  
RKL, LLP

**Secretary:** Jason Schultz  
High Hotels

Patrick Ball  
York Expo Center

Mike De Julia  
Yorktowne Hotel

Meagan Hess Given  
The Pretzel Company

Mike Jones  
PA House of Representatives 93rd  
District

Leah Nadu  
Historic Ashland

Jada Richardson  
City of York

Joseph Scarcelli, Ph.D.  
York College of Pennsylvania

Sam Terroso  
South County Brewing

Laura Wagner  
Explore York

Julie Wheeler  
York County President  
Commissioner

Joanne Wilmore  
Grace Manor B&B

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## York County Tourism Grant Program Committee

**Chair:** Eric Menzer  
York Revolution

Elaine Bonneau  
Bonneau & Associates

Tyler Chronister  
County of York, Pennsylvania

Katie Mahoney  
YCEA & Downtown Inc

Christina McCullough  
Stewart & Tate

Sarah Messer  
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce

Jeff Pacl  
Crispus Attucks Association of York, PA

Dora Polk  
PA House of Representatives

Bryan Tate  
County of York, Pennsylvania



# EXPLORE YORK FACT SHEET

York County's Official Tourist Promotion Agency

## Explore York Timeline Highlights

- 2024**
  - New, interactive website was launched (YorkPA.org).
  - Eclipsed the \$5 million mark in projects funded through the Tourism Grant Program.
- 2023**
  - Hit the \$4 million revenue mark in room tax for the first time.
- 2022**
  - Celebrated 50 Years of Women in Sports at a first-of-its kind Title IX Anniversary event at Historic Ashland.
  - Explore York was awarded a \$450,000 grant from the York County Tourism Grant Program for place based marketing, brand adoption efforts, and implementation.
- 2021**
  - The Good Libations Trails digital passport was launched.
- 2019**
  - The organization was rebranded to embrace the destination brand for York County tourism.
  - The YCCVB announced they will now do business as "Explore York."
- 2018**
  - Laura Wagner was appointed president of the York County CVB.
  - The YCCVB was awarded the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program (DMAP) seal of accreditation by Destinations International for its commitment to industry excellence and meeting the industry standard for performance and accountability of destination organizations around the world. This certification was initially awarded to the York County CVB in 2008, making it only the fifth CVB in PA at the time to achieve this designation.
- 2017**
  - Laura Wagner attained the designation of Certified Destination Management Executive from Destination Marketing Association International (DMAI).
  - The York County Convention & Visitors Bureau (YCCVB) and the York County Commissioners established a matching grant program aimed at boosting tourism visitation in York County.



Explore York was originally called "The Colonial York Tourist Bureau" when founded in **1958**.

