



Phantom's Revenge voted among nation's top roller coasters; Kennywood's Bites and Pints Festival back for bonus days entering July 4th Weekend

Iconic coaster finishes 2nd in USA TODAY 10Best.com online vote to highlight extended holiday weekend

WEST MIFFLIN – The holiday celebrations start a few days early at Kennywood, Pittsburgh's Thrill and Entertainment Destination: the park's new-for-2021 event, the Bites and Pints Food & Drink Festival, is back by popular demand for a bonus weekend, and one of the park's most iconic rides just landed major honors in a national poll conducted by *USA TODAY*'s 10Best.com!

With the nation's birthday just days away, the Phantom's Revenge roller coaster finished second on *USA TODAY*'s 10Best.com national poll to determine [America's Best Roller Coasters](#). As Pennsylvania's fastest roller coaster, the Phantom is renowned by park guests and enthusiasts alike for its big drops, top speeds and abundant airtime. While its first 160-foot drop is impressive enough, the second hill is the headliner: a 232-foot dive through the structure of the Thunderbolt roller coaster, whipping riders around bends and along a series of airtime hills with a top speed in excess of 85 miles per hour.

"It's a huge honor to see Phantom's Revenge recognized nationally – and we thank everyone who supported it," says Kennywood/Sandcastle General Manager Mark Pauls. "The Phantom packs a punch that's hard to find anywhere else and headlines our world-class collection of roller coasters and thrilling rides."

Kennywood's group of scream machines offer something for all tastes – from the nine-inversion Steel Curtain, voted 2019's Best New Roller Coaster, to launching Sky Rocket, spinning Exterminator and of course, the three classic wood coasters Jack Rabbit, Racer and Thunderbolt. This Independence Day weekend, riding isn't the only reason to head for Kennywood – there's four more chances to thrill your taste buds at the [Bites and Pints Food & Drink Festival!](#)

Bites and Pints was newly introduced in June with a chef-created menu of international snacks and sips, located at kiosks around the park's Lagoon. After a wildly successful run last month, Kennywood's adding an encore weekend from Friday, July 2 through Monday, July 5 to complement free admission for military and special entertainment including the Wiener 100 dachshund races on Saturday, July 3.

Looking for fireworks? Idlewild & SoakZone, the Best Kids' Park in the World, exclusively hosts fireworks celebrations this year. Idlewild will offer extended hours on Sunday, July 4, operating until 9:00 p.m., with the fireworks spectacular scheduled for 9:30 p.m., weather permitting. Sandcastle – Pittsburgh's Hometown Waterpark – announced an extended operating calendar. The water park will be open 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. July 2 – July 5, and until 6:00 p.m. every public operating Friday and Saturday from July 9 through September 4. Just in time for the holiday weekend, Sandcastle kicks off its all-new [Jammin' July Weekends](#) music festival on July 3. Various bands will perform at the park on Saturdays and Sundays through August 1.

Kennywood, Sandcastle, and Idlewild and SoakZone – Pittsburgh's Premier Destinations for Family Fun – will all offer free admission to military service members over the Independence Day holiday weekend. Service members must be active duty or have received an honorable discharge and have a valid ID. They can also purchase up to three discounted tickets for family and friends for \$20 each.

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Kennywood, Sandcastle & Idlewild Media Release



Kennywood, Sandcastle and Idlewild will also offer discounted holiday weekend tickets for guests, along with a new *Two Parks, One Price* combo ticket. The combo deal offers a ticket to any two Pittsburgh parks for only \$69.99 – far less than purchasing separately – and can be used any two days until July 25.

For tickets, a complete activities schedule, and more information, visit each park's website: [Kennywood](#), [Sandcastle](#), and [Idlewild](#).

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About Kennywood, Sandcastle & Idlewild:

Kennywood is Pittsburgh's Thrill and Entertainment Destination! The Pittsburgh-area park, founded in 1898, offers a unique mix of modern thrills and classic rides, including seven roller coasters, a 12-ride Kiddieland, and several attractions that cannot be found anywhere else.

Sandcastle, Pittsburgh's Hometown Waterpark, has been providing summer fun for 30 seasons, offering fun for all ages with 15 world-class waterslides, the wild Mon-Tsunami Wave Pool, scenic Mushroom Pool, relaxing Lazy River, and more.

Idlewild & SoakZone, the Best Kids' Park in the World, is the third-longest operating amusement park in the United States, having opened in 1878. Regularly earning nationally recognized for its appeal to families with young children, Idlewild features classic amusement rides, the SoakZone waterpark, costumed characters, and one-of-a-kind attractions such as Story Book Forest and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.

About Palace Entertainment

[Palace Entertainment](#) is one of the leading leisure park operators in the United States, with 25 major entertainment and educational venues across 10 different states offering a wide range of family-friendly rides, attractions and educational experiences. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Palace Entertainment is part of Parques Reunidos, one of the leading global operators, with more than 60 different assets (theme parks, zoos and marine parks, water parks and other attractions) spread out over various countries across Europe, North America, the Middle East, and Australia.