

Minnesota

# SENSORY GUIDE

A resource for guests with cognitive disabilities Including autism spectrum disorder (asd)

# Contents

Overview	Page 3
Amenities	Page 6
Waterpark	Page 11
Attractions	Page 19



# **OVERVIEW**

OVERVIEW AMENITIES WATER PARK ATTRACTIONS



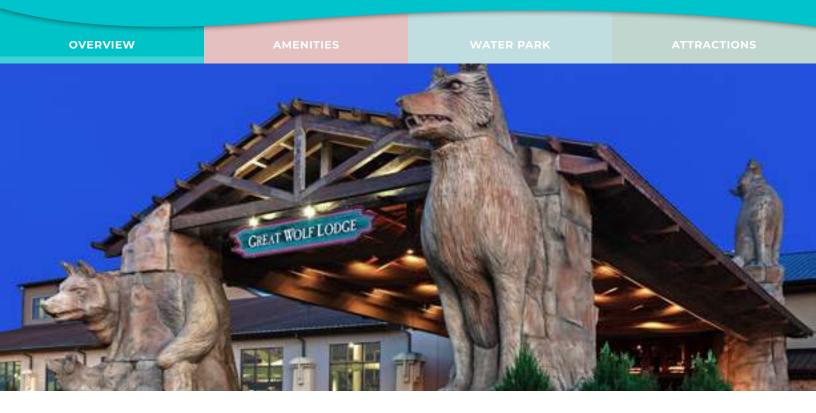
GREAT WOLF LODGE WOULD LIKE
TO RECOGNIZE THE PARTNERSHIP
AND COLLABORATION WITH IBCCES
IN BOTH CREATING THIS SENSORY
GUIDE AND IN PROVIDING
GUIDANCE AND TRAINING FOR
OUR PACK MEMBERS.

IBCCES has been the leader in cognitive disorder training and certification for healthcare, education, and corporate professionals around the globe for over 20 years. IBCCES is the only credentialing board that provides travel and entertainment organizations with training and certification programs from experts, autistic self-advocates, and other resources, as well as long-term support to help them accommodate and assist autistic or sensory-sensitive visitors and their families. IBCCES created programs specifically for hospitality and recreational organizations in order to train staff and help develop other accommodations for this growing but underserved part of the community.

The assessors believe the information contained within this assessment report to be correct at the time of printing. The assessors do not accept responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information herein. The report is based on matters which were observed or came to the attention of the assessors during the day of the assessment and should not be relied upon as an exhaustive record of all possible risks or hazards that may exist or potential improvements that can be made.







# GREAT WOLF LODGE'S MISSION IS TO BRING JOY TO FAMILIES.

### **OVERVIEW**

Great Wolf Lodge's mission is to bring joy to families. As the next step in ensuring this goal, we have partnered with the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) in an effort to ensure our lodge is a welcoming and joyous getaway for all of our visitors, including groups who may have a neurodivergent member. This partnership includes training and resources for our Pack Members in their interactions with neurodivergent and sensory-sensitive guests, as well as this Sensory Guide to hopefully allow our guests to be better prepared for their visit.

We understand how important it can be for families to have a thorough

understanding of a facility and its potential for sensory triggers. Our website (www.greatwolf.com) is an excellent resource for understanding the various features, attractions, retail outlets, and dining options at each of our lodges. As part of our partnership, IBCCES evaluated our slides, pools, and attractions to provide their independent and expert opinions on how each rates across sensory inputs, to give our guests a better level of information prior to visiting. Our sincere hope is that this Sensory Guide offers our guests some comfort and a sense of control as they prepare to experience a fun-filled visit to Great Wolf Lodge.



# **AMENITIES**

OVERVIEW AMENITIES WATER PARK ATTRACTIONS

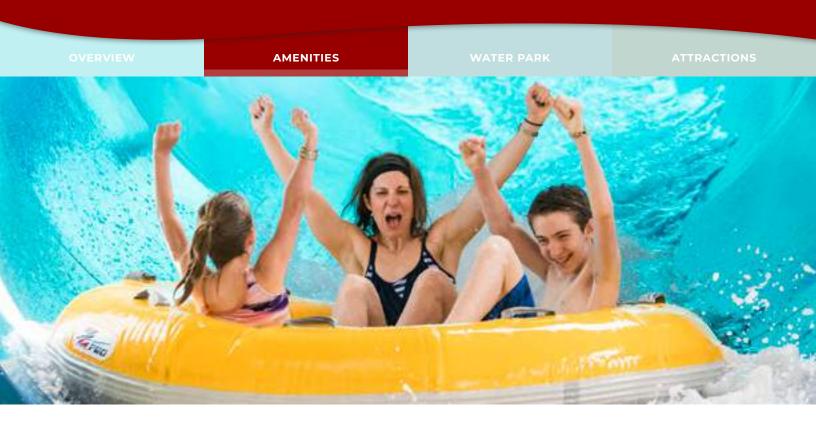
### **WRISTBANDS**

A unique aspect of being an overnight guest at Great Wolf Lodge is the ability to leave your wallet and forms of payment secured in your guestroom while you enjoy our outlets and attractions. Upon check-in, our adult guests are outfitted with a wristband that includes a programmed RFID chip that functions as your guestroom key, as well as your ticket to enter the indoor water park. Also, it can be linked to your payment account, allowing you to charge purchases by simply scanning your wristband.

Children are also issued wristbands but without the RFID chip unless otherwise requested. If you have concerns that your child is likely to wander from your group during your stay and find themselves separated, consider requesting an RFID wristband for your child. If a Pack Member recognizes a child is separated from their group, an RFID wristband will allow us to identify the reservation of their party and greatly enhance our ability to quickly reunite the group.

Additionally, you may wish to identify a member of your group as neurodivergent, so that our Pack Members are aware to take special considerations when interacting with that guest. We can offer a special multi-colored wristband to signal to our Pack Members that the wearer is neurodivergent. If interested, please request this wristband during check-in.





### **QUEUES**

We offer many attractions at Great Wolf Lodge across both the water park and our "dry play" Adventure Park. Each of our lodges are listed at the beginning of this Sensory Guide along with their respective attractions, so you can quickly see which are available at the lodge you plan to visit. As with any entertainment center, queues may form for certain attractions and there could be a slight wait time to experience it. This is more likely at our larger waterslides that are accessed via a tower staircase in the water park.

We understand that waiting in line can be a challenge for many individuals, but for various reasons, we do not offer any form of queue skipping service. However, many of our attractions are often available without any kind of queue, such as our pools and various water park play structures. In addition, our arcades and lobby entertainment are also likely to be without a line. If the wait time associated with a specific attraction is particularly challenging to a member of your group, we encourage you to take advantage of these no-queue options or consider timing your water park experience during less crowded times, such as the beginning or ending of operating hours. Another consideration, if queuing is a concern, is to schedule your visit midweek during a non-school break period, when the lodge is usually less busy.

OVERVIEW AMENITIES WATER PARK ATTRACTION



### **QUIET AREAS**

Each Lodge is unique in its layout, but each has public areas that are generally quieter than the more popular attraction areas. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the layout upon arrival, to determine if there are sections that would allow you to quickly find a quieter area if the need arises. Also, feel free to ask any of our Pack Members if they can recommend such an area. Of course, as a hotel guest, you'll have your guestroom to take a break from the excitement of our water park and attractions. Within the water park, cabanas are available for rent, to provide a reserved area for your group and a sense of semi-seclusion from the surrounding environment.

### **ADA ACCESSIBILITY**

Each Great Wolf Lodge property is prepared to assist guests with specific physical accessibility requirements. Our facilities permit service animals (including inside the water park, except in or near pools); we offer ADA compliant guestrooms with features highlighted in the guestroom descriptions portion of our website; and we include several accessible hotel features such as reserved accessible parking, accessibility elements within our food and beverage outlets, and equipment for those with audibility needs.

Additional details can be found online at www.greatwolf.com/accessibility. To the extent you have specific requirements or inquiries not addressed above or online, please either reach out to us by email (accessibility@greatwolf.com) or contact us by phone (800-905-9653) and mention you'd like to speak to someone regarding the accessibility features available at a Great Wolf Lodge.

OVERVIEW AMENITIES WATER PARK ATTRACTIONS

### **DINING/FOOD ALLERGIES**

Great Wolf Lodge offers multiple food and beverage outlets to satisfy your group throughout your stay, while never having to leave the comforts of the lodge. Please check our website for the specific outlets found in the lodge at which you're staying—each of our outlet menus are conveniently located online to allow you to plan ahead for your group's preferences.

Traveling with food allergies or while on a gluten-free diet can be quite stressful, and our chefs at Great Wolf Lodge are trained and knowledgeable about most allergies. With advanced notice, our culinary team can often provide personalized options to guests, no matter their needs. To coordinate with the lodge's culinary team prior to your stay, visit the "Dining" tab on the website page for the location you plan to visit. There, you'll find an email address for that lodge's executive chef to discuss your specific food allergies.

If unable to coordinate in advance of your visit, please talk to our front desk or restaurant Pack Members upon arrival at the lodge. The chef or sous chef will come out to speak to you directly about what foods may trigger an allergic reaction, and help you navigate the available menus.





# WATER PARK

OVERVIEW AMENITIES WATER PARK ATTRACTION:

### **SENSORY LEVEL SUMMARY**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation

TYPE	ATTRACTION	тоисн	TASTE	SOUND	SMELL	SIGHT
	Alberta Falls	6	2	5	4	5
	Big Foot Pass	6	2	5	4	3
	Chinook Cove	6	2	5	4	3
	Crooked Creek	4	2	5	4	3
	Cub Paw Pool	4	2	5	4	3
	Fort Mackenzie	7	2	6	4	5
	Otter Run	7	2	5	4	5
	River Canyon Run	6	2	5	4	5
	Slap Tail Pond	5	2	5	4	4
	Totem Towers	5	2	5	4	3
	Wolf Rider Wipeout	9	2	5	4	3

**WATER PARK** 



### RIDE NAME:

### **Alberta Falls**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Descend four stories on this exhilarating tandem tube ride to give your pack four times the fun!

#### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



### **TOUCH**





2

)) 🦻 SOUND

5

**SMELL** 

SIGHT

5

- Ride on a single or double tube through an enclosed
- Must be able to sit and grip tube
- Potential for splashing and immersion at end of slide
- Low impact on this sense throughout the attraction
- · Potential to ingest water
- Background noise consisting of rushing water and other guests
- · Scent of chlorine prominent
- Transition from darkness to bright light as rider exits slide
- · Bright colors



### **RIDE NAME:**

### **Big Foot Pass**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Challenge your agility, speed, and coordination by attempting to cross these large, floating lily pads with the help of only cargo nets for a fun water park experience.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



### **TOUCH**

6



**TASTE** 

2

SOUND

5

**SMELL** 



SIGHT

- Users must be able to grip and balance
- · Potential for immersion
- Low impact on this sense throughout the attraction
- · Potential to ingest water
- consisting of rushing water and other guests
- Potential for close proximity/shared space with other guests
- · Scent of chlorine prominent
- Potential for water to splash

**WATER PARK** 



### RIDE NAME: **Chinook Cove**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Swim, splash, and play basketball within this fun water playground.

### SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



TOUCH



**TASTE** 



))🏿 sound

5

**SMELL** 

SIGHT

3

- Area for free swim, but may also engage in water play with sports equipment
- Low impact on this sense throughout the attraction
- · Potential to ingest water
- Background noise consisting of rushing water and other guests
- Potential for close proximity/ shared space with other quests
- · Scent of chlorine is prominent
- Mostly natural light, indoor settina
- · Potential for water to get in eyes



### **RIDE NAME:**

### **Crooked Creek**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Grab a tube and float your cares away down our lazy river for a well-deserved break from the high-energy adventure.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



### **TOUCH**



**TASTE** 



SOUND

5

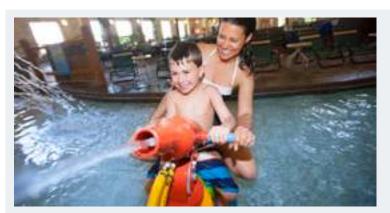
**SMELL** 



SIGHT

- pendently or ride on tubes on slow-moving water
- Guests will pass under water
- Low impact on this sense throughout the attraction
- Potential to ingest water
- ing of rushing water and other guests
- · Close proximity/ shared
- · Scent of chlorine prominent
- Mostly natural light, indoor setting
- Guests pass through various areas of the waterpark as they
- Potential for water to splash

**WATER PARK** 



### RIDE NAME:

### **Cub Paw Pool**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Splash and play with the pups in your pack in this kiddie swimming pool while exploring its fun activities.

#### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



### **TOUCH**





2

))🏿 sound

5

**SMELL** 

SIGHT

3

- Young quests can play and interact in shallow water
- May be sprayed or have water dumped unexpectedly
- Potential for water to spray or splash in mouth
- · Low impact on this sense
- Background noise consisting of rushing water and other guests
- Potential for close proximity/shared space with other guests
- · Scent of chlorine prominent
- Mostly natural lighting, indoor settina
- · Bright colors
- · Potential for water to splash in eves



### **RIDE NAME:**

### Fort Mackenzie

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Prepare for fun in our interactive four-story water fort tree house complete with slides and toys for the whole pack.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



### **TOUCH**





SOUND

6



**SMELL** 



- Multiple areas to play, climb, and interact with water and play structures
- May be sprayed or have water dumped unexpectedly
- Low impact on this sense throughout the attraction
- Potential to ingest water
- Bell dings before bucket dumps water
- Background noise consisting of rushing water and other guests
- Potential for close proximity/shared space with other guests
- · Scent of chlorine prominent
- interaction with play structures as well as other guests
- · Mostly natural lighting, indoor

OVERVIEW AMENITIES WATER PARK ATTRACTIONS



### **RIDE NAME:**

### **Otter Run**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Ride gentle twists and turns made for the whole pack that will leave you smiling from ear to ear! No mat or tube is required for this indoor water park ride.

#### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



- Must be able to maintain body position on slide
- Fast moving body slide
- Immersion at end of slide

· Must be able to sit and grip

tube

- Low impact on this sense throughout the attraction
- · Potential to ingest water
- Background noise consisting of rushing water and other quests
- · Scent of chlorine prominent
- · Bright colors
- Riders move quickly down slide as scenery rushes
- Transition from darkness to bright light
- · Twists and turns



### RIDE NAME:

### **River Canyon Run**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Twist and dip over this raft water slide's gentle curves and bends designed for the whole pack to enjoy.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**



**GREAT WOLF LODGE | SENSORY GUIDE - WATERPARK** 

**WATER PARK** 



### RIDE NAME:

### **Slap Tail Pond**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Catch a wave and play in the swells sweeping in from the five-foot deep end to the zero-depth entry shallows. Our wave pool can be enjoyed by pack members of all ages!

#### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



TOUCH



SOUND

5

**SMELL** 

SIGHT

- · Splashing water, rolling waves
- Low impact on this sense throughout the attraction
- · Potential to ingest water
- Background noise consisting of splashing water and other
- Potential for close proximity/ shared space with other
- · Scent of chlorine prominent
- Open waters with other swimmers
- · Can get crowded
- · Potential for water to splash in eves



### **RIDE NAME:**

### **Totem Towers**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Fly the coop on these water slides once you've reached the top of Fort MacKenzie, our interactive water fort tree house.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



**TOUCH** 

**TASTE** 

2



5

**SMELL** 



- Two colorful waterslides ending in shallow water
- Potential for splashing at the end of each slide
- · May move through slide quickly
- Low impact on this sense throughout the attraction
- · Potential to ingest water
- Background noise consisting of rushing water and other guests
- · Scent of chlorine prominent
- · Bright colors
- Fast ride through multi-colored enclosed space

**WATER PARK** 



### RIDE NAME:

### **Wolf Rider Wipeout**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Test your surfing skills as you catch a wave in our surf simulator that is sure fun for the whole pack.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



- · Staff is available to assist
- · May slip or tumble into water

- · Mostly natural light, indoor settina



# ATTRACTIONS

OVERVIEW AMENITIES WATER PARK ATTRACTIONS

### SENSORY LEVEL SUMMARY

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation

TYPE	ATTRACTION	тоисн	TASTE	SOUND	SMELL	SIGHT
	Build-A-Bear	4	1	3	1	2
	Grand Lobby	2	1	5	1	3
	Howl in One Mini Golf	4	1	5	3	3
	Howlers Peak Ropes Course	6	1	5	3	5
	MagiQuest	2	1	4	1	4
	Northern Lights Arcade	4	1	8	1	8
	Oliver's Mining Co.	3	1	4	1	3
	Rustic Ridge Climbing Wall	8	1	4	1	5
	Ten Paw Alley	5	1	5	1	5

**ATTRACTIONS** 



### ATTRACTION NAME: **Build-A-Bear**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Watch your child create a forever pal of their very own at Build-A-Bear Workshop. Choose a favorite from the Great Wolf Pack characters and take your pick of outfits, colorful costumes, and accessories, then watch as the plush toy comes to life right before your pup's eyes. You can even pick up matching clothing for your little ones!

#### SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



TOUCH



**TASTE** 

)) 🦻 SOUND

3

**SMELL** 

SIGHT

2

- · Users touch materials as part of the process
- · Additional arts & crafts are scheduled at the large table
- · Low impact on this sense
- Potential for close proximity/shared space with other visitors
- Machines make additional sounds
- Music and some background sounds from surrounding areas
- · Low impact on this sense
- · Users surrounded by brightly colored equipment
- · Indoor/overhead lighting



### **ATTRACTION NAME: Grand Lobby**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Experience a world of play, all under one roof. Our variety of exciting attractions offer something for everyone, from arcade games and mini bowling to Great Wolf's exclusive interactive adventure game, MagiQuest. Our lobby area is the hub to explore all these attractions and much more!

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation

**TOUCH** 

2



**TASTE** 



5

**SMELL** 

SIGHT

- · Low impact on this sense
- · Opportunity for tactile engagement if participating in daily events
- · Low impact on this sense
- proximity/shared space with other visitors
- This can be a busy and active space during events
- Microphones and music may be utilized before and during events
- · Low impact on this sense
- · Indoor/overhead lighting
- Some additional lighting from fireplace

ATTRACTIONS



### ATTRACTION NAME: **Howl in One Mini Golf**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

No family vacation would be complete without a round of miniature golf! Reserve your tee time for 9 holes of interactive play with plenty of sand traps, tricky shots, giant animals and ball-eating fish. It's challenging enough for more skilled players and easy enough for putters of all ages.

#### SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



- Participants swing and use clubs to aim their golf ball
- · Play at your own pace
- Some differing walking surfaces as players transition between and within holes
- · Low impact on this sense
- Users can hear clicking sounds from ropes course overhead
- Sound echoes in this area
- Some smells from food items being prepared and served nearby
- · Natural light, indoor setting

3

Ropes course is above head when playing mini golf



### **ATTRACTION NAME:**

### **Howlers Peak Ropes Course**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Take your family on an invigorating aerial adventure that will have you balancing on ropes, crossing bridges and climbing through obstacles: all from the safety of a climbing harness! Our ropes course offers high-flying fun that will elevate your family vacation to a whole new level.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



· Need to wear safety gear

- clicking sounds as users move through it
- Background sounds from
- being prepared and served nearby
- · Indoor/overhead lighting

ATTRACTIONS



### **ATTRACTION NAME: MagiQuest**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Explore the lodge and take part in the adventure of a lifetime! MagiQuest turns Great Wolf Lodge into a live-action videogame where you're the star. You'll choose a special magic wand, top it with extra powers, and set off on a quest to help the Guardians protect the Realm Portals, in order to earn the title of Master Magi. Play for a few minutes or all day. Be sure to take your wand home—you can continue your adventure on your next trip to Great Wolf Lodge.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



TOUCH



TASTE



)) 🦻 SOUND



**SMELL** 

SIGHT

4

- · Wave wand to activate
- Guests walk station to station
- · Low impact on this sense
- Attraction features music and
- Background sounds from nearby areas
- · Low impact on this sense
- · Parts of the attraction light up when interacting
- · Features many digital screens



### ATTRACTION NAME:

### **Northern Lights Arcade**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

The Northern Lights Arcade is packed with incredible games to challenge and entertain the entire family. Lights, action, and energy fill the arcade with excitement, surrounding you with the newest and best games — and great prizes, too. The more you play, the more you can win! Plus, Paw Points don't expire: Bring your card back when you visit again for more arcade fun.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation

**TOUCH** 



**TASTE** 



)))🄊 SOUND

8

**SMELL** 

SIGHT

- squeeze, toss, push buttons and engage in various games and equipment
- Lots of opportunity for tactile engagement
- Low impact on this sense
- proximity/ shared space with other visitors
- When busy, can be noisy as sounds may echo
- Music, buzzers, and other sounds may occur
- · Low impact on this sense
- · Bright colors/lights
- Blinking/flashing lights
- · Digital graphics
- · Potential for space to be crowded

**ATTRACTIONS** 



### **ATTRACTION NAME:** Oliver's Mining Co.

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Dig into adventure as you pan and sift your way to discovering beautiful gemstones buried in the mine—what's hiding in your pay dirt? Take your new collection of valuables home in a keepsake gem bag, complete with gemstone identification guide and personalized labels.

#### SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation



· Hands will get wet

Additional sounds from surrounding areas

- · Indoor/overhead lighting
- Potential for water to splash in eves



### **ATTRACTION NAME:**

## **Rustic Ridge Climbing Wall**

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Take fun to new heights! Rustic Ridge offers a 33-ft. climbing challenge for every age and skill level. Our staff will outfit you with a safety harness and provide friendly tips on making it to the "summit".



DVERVIEW AMENITIES WATER PARK ATTRACTIONS



# ATTRACTION NAME: Ten Paw Alley

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Enjoy bowling for toddlers, teens, and tall ones alike. Shorter lanes and smaller bowling balls make this a perfect way to spend time together as a family, whether you're trying for a perfect game or simply playing for fun. No special shoes required.

### **SENSORY LEVEL & PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES:**

1 = low sensory stimulation, 10 = high sensory stimulation

)))

SOUND SIGHT TOUCH **TASTE** 5 **SMELL** 5 · Users can bowl · Low impact on this sense Sounds from bowling and · Low impact on this sense · Indoor, Neon accent lighting music Features smaller balls and · This is a dimly lit area Potential for sounds to echo smaller pins · Multiple digital screens in this area Potential for close proximity/

shared space with other

visitors