

HALLOWEEN TRICKS AND TIPS

The leaves are changing and there is a brisk feel to the air. Fall has finally arrived, and with it comes the excitement of Halloween gatherings and fun outdoor activities. Here are a few tips to stay safe while enjoying the festivities:



Tips for little goblins:

- Always wear a bright/reflective costume- drivers need to see you!
- Carry a reflective bag or pumpkin to gather your treats
- Carry a flashlight or light stick if walking after dark
- Always trick or treat with an adult or group – always make sure your adult is within sight
- Never get into a stranger’s vehicle
- Never go into a stranger’s home
- If a stranger comes up to you and asks for your treats- give them away or just drop them and scream/run to an adult that you recognize
- Do not take any candy or treat that is not in a sealed package
- Do not approach any home that does not have a welcome light on
- If you are carrying a sword/bat/knife or any other object that goes with your costume- remember these are just toys and do not hit anyone with them
- Do not cross an intersection or street without an adult – always be on the lookout for cars and look in both directions
- Schools, libraries and malls are a great and safe place to trick or treat- ask your parents to drive you there and stay with the group
- Don’t eat all of your treats at once—you may have a tummy ache!



Tips for teenagers

- If you are going to a party with friends, make sure your parent knows where you will be and when to expect you home
- Never drink alcohol and drive- you could be arrested and go to jail, or you can injure yourself or others
- Never get into a car with any friend who has been drinking alcohol—call your parent or an adult to pick you up
- If your parents ask you to be home at a certain time, make sure you respect that rule. If you are delayed, call and let them know where you are any why you are not home
- Make sure you have your cell phone with you at all times in case of emergency
- Vandalism is a crime- throwing eggs, rocks or painting a home/driveway/wall is a crime- you could go to jail



Tips for adults

- accompany your child around the neighborhood- you will get some good exercise from walking
- Choose or make costumes that have reflective decorations and are fire-proof- you can purchase reflective tape at most fabric stores
- If your child is wearing a mask or eye patch, make sure they can see safely around them
- Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries
- Carry your cell phone at all times
- Never drink alcohol when you accompany your children
- Get a group of neighbors together to walk with your children- what a fun way to have a social gathering
- Do not supervise more than 8-10 children-- you can't keep your eye on more than that!
- Wear reflective clothing or put on a vest with reflective strips- drivers should see you as well as your children
- Offer to have a neighborhood party- invite all of the neighborhood goblins for fun and games in a safe place
- Always keep your eyes on your children or assigned group—even a safe environment such as the mall or community center can be hazardous
- Never leave your child or group for any reason- even for a few minutes- without turning the responsibility to another trusted adult.
- Check your local community resources and know where the registered sex offenders are located—this list can be found by looking up your local zip code--avoid those areas
- Keep the children in the local neighborhood- you know your neighbors and they likely know you and the children
- Make sure your children (especially teenagers) know when you expect them home- ask them to call if they are delayed for any reason
- Make sure your children know they can call you for a ride home if their friends have been drinking. Communicate with them that it is always best to call if they are unsure of the safety of their driver.

