



# Trick or treat

Halloween has always been a fun-filled time for young and old. You can make it a fun and safe time by following a few simple safety tips.

## Costumes and Props

- Select light-colored flame-retardant and well-fitting costumes that are easily seen at night by a motorist.
- Add reflective or glow-in-the-dark tape or glow sticks to their costume and treat bag.
- Wear good, flat-soled shoes to prevent trips and falls.
- Make sure any props being carried are short and flexible.
- Make certain masks, wigs, or facial disguises don't impede vision and breathing.



## Halloween basics

- Carry a flashlight.
- If you are driving on Halloween, be alert for children crossing streets and stepping out into the road.
- Be especially careful pulling in or out of driveways, side streets, and alleys.
- An adult should accompany children under 12.
- Parent or child should have a mobile phone with them.
- Ensure younger children know their home address, home, or mobile phone number if they become lost or separated from their group.
- Use sidewalks whenever possible to avoid being struck by a motor vehicle.
- Always walk facing traffic when walking on roads and cross streets only at crosswalks.
- Never get into a stranger's car or enter a stranger's home.
- Only visit homes that have their porch lights on.



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- Be careful around candles and open flames.
- Be careful when climbing steps or standing on porches; some may be missing guardrails, be alert.

## Older kids going out on their own

- Parents, make sure you know the route your children are taking and establish a time to return home.
- Ensure older children have a mobile phone and know their address, home, or mobile phone number and how to call 911 if they become lost or there is an emergency or become separated from their group.

## Back at the House

- Parents, make sure you inspect the goodies to make sure they are sealed and untampered with.
- Throw out any homemade treats for people you don't know.

## Alternatives

If trick or treating isn't for your child, consider planning a party with your child's friends or neighbors. You can have a candy-free costume contest and play games and award prizes. Also, check your local churches, schools, or community centers for other possibilities and events.

A little extra vigilance can help to ensure a safe Halloween for everyone.

Photos:

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