

Every October, children look forward to Halloween night – the time when they get to dress up as their favorite characters, knock on neighbors' doors and ask the age-old question: "Trick or Treat?"

Kids usually get what they want – a bag or a bucket full of sweets! This joy can quickly sour, however, if parents and their children have not made the necessary preparations for everyone to have a safe night.

This brochure is designed to help you, and your child, keep trick-or-treat safety in mind during Halloween. Please take the time to read the Halloween story, which incorporates safety tips, with your child. Additional safety tips and reminders are also on the back of the brochure. Together, we can make Halloween a fun and safe night for everyone.

The American Legion has always been concerned for the welfare of our nation's youth. Therefore, as long as Halloween activities are sponsored and promoted in our communities, Legionnaires believe that children and parents should know how to observe the holiday as safely as possible. Such concern should not be interpreted as an endorsement or approval of Halloween as an annual event.

Halloween Safety Tips

- Pin a piece of paper to your child's costume that features their home or parents' phone number, home address, and to dial 911 for an emergency or 0 for an operator.
- Don't assume the right of way with traffic and always watch for vehicles backing out of driveways.
- Adhere to trick-or-treating hours in your community.
- Have fun and be safe!

Donate candy

Don't throw away excess Halloween candy! Ask your local American Legion post if they would like it. Many posts will put it in goody bags that they either send to the military men and women serving overseas or provide to homeless or hospitalized veterans.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Americanism Commission
Committee on Children & Youth
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

c&y@legion.org

 www.legion.org

(317) 630-1323

Make
Halloween
A Fun and Safe Night





Once upon a frightful Halloween night something wonderful happened – in all the towns and cities across the country, children had a fun and safe night of trick-or-treating.

This happened because mothers and fathers walked with their young sons and daughters as they collected their treats. Older children walked in small groups. Nobody went out alone. Everyone carried a flashlight or glow stick.

Each child knew their telephone number and home address just in case they got separated from the group. They knew to dial 911 in an emergency, or 0 for an operator. They knew to never to go anywhere with anybody they didn't know or without permission from their parents or guardians.

Children stayed in their own neighborhoods and stopped only at well-lit homes. They knew better than to go inside any house, no matter what the person at the door said.

Everyone stayed on sidewalks or walked facing traffic, and used crosswalks when available. They only crossed streets at corners, never between parked cars. All the children obeyed traffic signals; they knew to stop, look both ways and listen for traffic before crossing.

Children wore light-colored costumes and added reflective tape to them, as well as to their trick-or-treat bag, so they could easily be seen. For better vision, children substituted colorful makeup for masks. They also kept their costumes short so they wouldn't trip, and chose costumes and disguises that wouldn't catch fire, just to be extra careful.

Children knew to accept only treats that were tightly wrapped or sealed and to wait to eat

them until they got home so adults could inspect every piece of candy.

Children found that Halloween was much more fun when it was celebrated safely. And that night, children across the nation drifted off to sleep dreaming of all their goodies; all the moms and dads slept soundly too.

Because parents took time to teach their children about Halloween safety and made sure the rules were followed, the children had a fun and safe night. And they all lived happily — and safely — ever after.

THE END