

The American Legion's National Commission on Children & Youth is very concerned about the welfare of our nation's youth. This brochure was designed to help you and your child keep trick-or-treat safety in mind during this Halloween season.

Every year around October 31, children's fantasies come true. They look forward to dressing-up as their favorite character and knocking on neighbor's doors to ask the age-old question "Trick or Treat?" Not too surprisingly, they usually get what they want – a bag full of sweets and goodies. However, even children's fantasies can sour if parents and children do not properly prepare for a safe night. Please take the time to review the safety tips and suggestions in this brochure and share them with your child. Together, you and your child can make Halloween a fun and safe night.

As long as Halloween activities are sponsored and promoted in our various communities, the National Commission on Children & Youth believes children and parents should know how to make this observance as safe as possible. Such concern should not be interpreted as an endorsement or approval of Halloween as an annual event.

Halloween Safety Tips

- All children should know their phone number and address and the following safety tips.
- A responsible adult should always accompany children.
- Costumes should be light in color to aid visibility, be fire resistant, and not pose a tripping hazard.
- Use make-up instead of vision-blocking masks.
- Always use sidewalks and obey traffic signals.
- Always cross the street at corners. Never cross the street between parked cars.
- Never go into a house for any reason.
- Never go with somebody without prior parental permission.
- Only accept sealed and wrapped treats.
- Always wait until adult checks all treats at home before eating.
- Dial 911 for emergencies, or dial 0 for an operator.
- Have Fun and Be Safe!

THE AMERICAN LEGION
National Commission on Children & Youth
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
www.legion.org

Make
Halloween
A Fun and Safe Night





Wnce upon a frightful Halloween night an amazing thing happened! Children in all the towns and cities across the country had a fun and safe night of trick-or-treating.

Mothers and Fathers walked with their young sons and daughters as they collected their treats. Older children always walked with small groups of other children. Nobody went out by himself or herself and everyone carried a flashlight.

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

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

Everyone used sidewalks when possible or walked facing traffic. They never crossed the street between parked cars and only crossed streets at corners. They knew to Stop, Look both ways, and Listen for traffic before crossing. All the children always obeyed traffic signals.

Children always wore light-colored clothing and costumes, and used reflective tape to make sure they could easily be seen. They kept their costumes short so they wouldn't trip. They also chose costumes and disguises that would not catch fire. They even wore colorful make-up, instead of masks, to make sure they could see well.

All children only accepted treats that were well wrapped or sealed. They all knew better than to eat any treats before getting home and letting their mom and dad check every treat.

All children found that Halloween was more fun than ever when it was a safe night. As children all across the nation drifted off to sleep dreaming of all their treats and goodies, all the moms and dads knew they would sleep more soundly themselves.

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

The End

