



GLOUCESTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

Gloucester Trick-or-Treat Times & Tips

Halloween is intended to be a fun event for children and families and also a time to be extra cautious and careful to keep everyone safe. On Monday, October 31st, Gloucester County officials have established a suggested trick-or-treat timeframe of 6-8:30 PM. It is also recommended that these activities be limited to children 12 years of age and younger under adult supervision. Safe Kids Worldwide notes that twice as many child pedestrians are killed while walking on Halloween than on any other days of the year; and only one-third of parents talk to their children about Halloween safety. Don't be in the 33 percentile! Be familiar with the safety tips below to help you and your child have an enjoyable and safe Halloween.

- 1) Costumes should be bright material, visible in the dark or have reflective tape. Everyone should carry a flashlight. Face paint is preferable to masks which may hinder visibility.
- 2) Trick-or-treat in well known neighborhoods. Accept treats only at the front door. Never enter the home of a stranger.
- 3) Instruct your child not to eat any "unchecked" treats that aren't sealed. Be careful about homemade treats or damaged wrappers.
- 4) Walk on the left side of the road facing traffic at all times. Avoid taking shortcuts across backyards or wooded areas. Always look twice before crossing a street.
- 5) Approach only homes that have their front porch light on.
- 6) Avoid houses and property that have posted no trespassing or no solicitation signs.

Organized events are a safe way for your child to enjoy Halloween. The Gloucester County Library will be sponsoring a "Spooktacular" event on Halloween Night from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Main Street Branch Library for children ages 2-12. Also, Gloucester Main Street Association will feature trick-or-treating from 5:30-8 p.m. During this event Main Street will be closed to through traffic from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.

Halloween is no longer a child-oriented event and there are more adults participating in parties and gatherings than ever before. Highway and road safety are of utmost importance and pedestrians as well as motorists should be extra vigilant. Motorists should pay attention as trick-or-treaters, excited and active, may dart into roadways. Slow down and drive with extra caution in neighborhoods or when approaching trick-or-treaters. Adults attending Halloween parties that include alcohol should designate a sober driver as alcohol, even in small amounts, slows reaction time and dulls senses.

The Sheriff's Office will have extra patrol units in various neighborhoods and on our roadways to help ensure everyone stays safe during this year's event.

On behalf of the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office and the Gloucester County Government, we wish you a happy and safe Halloween!