

What is The American Legion's focus around Halloween?

Safety. In 1972, The American Legion implemented a nationwide Halloween safety program for young trick-or-treaters, the first and only one of its kind. Since then, the Commission (now Committee) on Children & Youth has, in the words of its Chairman's Guide, "urged ... membership to conduct Halloween programs that are designed to keep young children safe in an effort to reduce accidents associated with Halloween."

A brochure to this purpose, "Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night," is **attached to this email**.

Keeping kids out of harm's way on Halloween started well before 1972. As far back as 1930, The American Legion Monthly described local posts' efforts to put on community Halloween celebrations in places like Coos Bay, Ore., to cut down on youthful danger and vandalism.

If you need some ideas here are a few you can do.

1. Host a kids pumpkin Carving Contest or Pumpkin Drawing Contest. This is a fun way to bring kids and families to your post on Halloween. You can sell tickets that are used to vote on the best pumpkin and then split the winnings between your top finishers.
2. Promote a safe Halloween by speaking to your schools PTO about some safety measures they can take to keep their children safe. You can pass out bags with glow sticks and the safe Halloween pamphlet.
3. Participate in your local town's safe Halloween event and pass out candy. This is a great way to promote your post and you will meet a lot of Post 9/11 Veterans.
4. You can conduct a Costume contest. Create different categories like **Most Unusual, Prettiest Costume** or maybe the **Scariest Costume**. You can provide prizes for each winner.

Halloween is a fun time of year and as Legionnaires we want to promote a safe environment for kids. I hope these ideas help you come up with a fun way of celebrating the holiday. Remember to share your activities with the Legion Times and Legiontown.org.