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Reporter's Notebook

Halloween is here and the time has come to start limbering up those legs.

We're not as young as we used to be, but that is no excuse for yielding a smaller candy count. And don't pretend you don't know what I am talking about.

Yes, I am talking about the best holiday tradition known to the people of the modern world. TRICK OR TREATING! And no, you are not too old to participate.

No one is ever too old to take advantage of something that is offered for free, no charge, no down-payment, no initiation fee, no deals. Just plain and simply FREE. And this is not just any old something for free. This is the most valuable of all valuable objects offered for free. OH YEAH, CANDY, FREE CANDY. And no, you are never too old for candy.

Since ancient times, great minds have often argued the inherent value of candy. They understand a human's internal quest for something so insatiable it can only be placated by sweets.

Yet somewhere along the lines candy lost its inherent value because a few ignorant "adult" folks continued to insist that we are too old for trick-or-treating and thus too old for candy.

These folks have gone astray in life and have somehow misled an entire generation of would-be Trick-or-Treaters. Well, the time has come to stand up and fight for your right to go trick or treeeeeeating.

To help maximize your candy count I have devised an official candy collecting strategy for the serious Trick-or-Treater. For starters, do you have one of those cute little plastic pumpkins with a handle on it? Get rid of it. A 40-gallon, 2-ply hefty bag is

a must. Keep in mind, time is candy. To minimize time wastage, plot your potential path early.

When choosing your target area ask yourself these questions: Does the area have treacherous terrain, i.e. large hills, barriers between houses, hazardous lawn fixtures? (Trip on a sprinkler head and your out for the night.) Or is the area relatively flat with homes set close together, fence free?

Once you have found a neighborhood with maximum yield, you're set. Begin your quest at dusk.

Now to fill these bags you've got to execute the fundamentals of trick or treating with an undying dedication. To avoid doorbell delay scream "trick or treat" when your approaching the porch so they'll hear you and have the candy ready as you reach the door.

Conversing with home owners is highly discouraged. Remember, you're on a time schedule.

And a word about dressing-up. Costumes, smostumes. Its the candy you're after. Elaborate costumes are sure to slow you down, so just hack up a bed sheet, align the eye-holes properly, and make sure your running shoes are tied. (It would be a pity to trip and spill your candy.)

However, candy spillage is nothing compared to the devastating effects of an apple. To avoid those so called "healthy treats," it is a good idea to put your biggest candy bar on the top of your bag. They'll think this is the norm and give you the same.

In the event that somebody does give you an apple, explain politely that in this day and age you cannot trust unpackaged goods from a stranger and could you perhaps redeem this for a Reeses Peanut Butter Cup and some Skittles?

So now that you understand the fundamentals of trick-or-treating and the laws of maximizing your candy yield, I wish the best of luck in your Halloween endeavors.

-Jenny Carey

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