

Consider Saturday spook-en for

Masks have always been part of the allure of Haunted Taft. But, as Lincoln City's popular walking ghost tour returns this weekend, Sasquatch and the skeletons won't be the only ones covering their faces.

All tour guests will be required to wear masks as the spooky history stroll sets out for its Summer Solstice Tour "Ghosts and Legends of the Oregon Coast" this Saturday, June 20.

This spine-chilling walking tour of Historic Taft offers guests the chance to hear the tale of Whiskey Jack, learn about the mysterious Ghost Schooner of Siletz Bay, puzzle over an eerie local Bigfoot sighting and experience a surprise or two.

Participants are encouraged to stay close to their party during the tour and try to maintain a six foot distance from other parties. Guides will be equipped with voice-amplification devices so that guests can hear stories from a safe distance.

Lasting about one and a half hours, the tour covers just under a mile of walking on flat, wheelchair-accessible surface. The

tour is conducted rain or (moon)shine, with ponchos available in case of rain.

Tickets must be purchased in advance, and each party should send just one member to check in for the entire group.

Tickets, \$20 for adults or \$10 for kids aged eight to 17, are available at hauntedtaft.com. The tour is not recommended for children under eight.



Bay to go!

Depoe Bay has long billed its harbor as the "World's Smallest" and now it can add "America's Best" after topping an online poll to find the number-one mooring spot in the US.

The poll, run by US Harbors, saw Depoe Bay come out ahead of 785 other harbors to claim the top spot.

"This is a delightfully pleasant recognition of our harbor and community that many of us think is the best place in the world to live," said Depoe Bay Chamber Board President Bill Johnson. "Beautiful location, wonderful fishing, great place to see whales, and a fantastic community of people."

For decades, the harbor has been a much appreciated gathering place, hosting thousands of locals and visitors each year at popular community events, such as the Fleet of Flowers, Salmon Bake, Crab Feed, Wooden Boat Show and Ducky Derby. In late 2019, Depoe Bay was added to the Oregon Film Trail with signage in the harbor to commemorate the filming of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

The harbor boasts a locally-beloved US Coast Guard crew, vessels and training station. There are benches and interpretive signage along the harbor wall, as well as easy access over a footbridge to a large waterside park with wooded hiking trails, a gazebo, picnic tables and ocean-themed play equipment.

Though small, this is a bustling harbor with over a dozen charters for fishing and crabbing, while 10 boats of varying sizes provide whale watching and sightseeing tours. There are three resident commercial vessels and a constant stream of recreational boats. Depoe Bay's harbor is also a recipient of Oregon's Clean Marina Program award — a voluntary recognition program recognizing those that adopt best management practices that improve water quality.

"There is just something about small towns that capture the imaginations of Americans," said Jeannie Henson, who leads social media efforts for Depoe Bay Chamber of Commerce. "Although Depoe Bay may be the world's smallest harbor, it more than makes up for it with the heart and soul of the fishermen, the businesses and local residents."



The chamber will soon be unveiling a Best US Harbor logo and hosting an event to celebrate and commemorate the win.

"I joined the chamber a year ago primarily because I love this town," said chamber Executive Director Laura Furgurson. "One of my goals has been to

get more exposure for our quaint, busy and productive harbor. For some unknown reason, I have always been drawn to boats and marinas. This award is a great way to share this love of harbors and highlight the wonderful Depoe Bay community and its strong maritime history."