

# Personalize Your Pumpkin

It can be hard to make your jack-o-lantern stand out from the crowd of evil faces. Put a creative, personal touch on your creation to keep the whole family talking about your pumpkin for Halloweens to come.

## THEMES

Are you a superhero or sports fan? Show your support with your jack-o-lantern. Line up a row of pumpkins showcasing the logos of your favorite teams or good (or bad) guys. Carve your favorite Star Wars characters or jersey numbers. If you can dream it, you can probably find an online template to help you bring your idea to life.

Be prepared to devote some time to this project, as adding the necessary details could take up the better part of an afternoon.

## PERSONALIZATION

Add your initials or family name to your pumpkin to make it truly one of a kind. There are many ways to do this. You can order personalized vinyl stickers or make your own with a vinyl cutting machine. Mix and match your favorite colors and patterns, or go for polka dotted, striped or glittered versions of your name or initials. For a simple yet elegant aesthetic, paint a black script initial on a white pumpkin. For a truly unique look, press upholstery tacks into a pumpkin in the shape of your initials. Apply your design to a reusable foam pumpkin for a piece of decor that you can use every year.

## ARTISTIC FLAIR

There's no limit to the amount of creativity you can put into your pumpkin. This Old House holds an annual pumpkin carving contest, and 2015's winners included an elaborate scene depicting skeletons wreaking havoc on an unfortunate squash, fancy owls decorated with sticks and feathers, a meticulous recreation of BB-8 of Star Wars fame, a deranged bunny and even Donald Trump's hairdo.

You don't have to be an artist to put a little flair into your pumpkin. A few basic craft supplies can go a long way toward making your pumpkin stand out. Create a diamond patterned motif with black and white acrylic paint, disguise a pumpkin as candy corn with a tri-colored paint job or carve seasonal messages such as "boo," "welcome" and "fall" out of small baking pumpkins. Glam up your pumpkin with shiny gold paint or glitter. Turn the pumpkin on its side and use the stem as an elephant's trunk or a witch's nose. Carve several windows and a door to turn your pumpkin into a haunted house, and complete the scene by painting on a creepy tree and ghosts.

If you put your imagination to work, your squash won't soon be forgotten.



## Trick or Treat In Historic Downtown Cottage Grove

### Monday, October 31st 3pm -5pm

Join us for  
**PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST**  
*Sponsored by the Cottage Grove Aqua Lions*

**COSTUME CONTEST**  
*Youth and Adult*  
*All America City Square 4:00pm*  
• Most Original • Scariest • Cutest • Funniest  
• Most Technologically Advanced or Eco Friendly  
• Best Animal • Best Homemade • Best Group

**MINI WALK-THROUGH HAUNTED HOUSE**  
*Sponsored by Cottage Grove Faith Center*

**GUESS HOW MANY M&M's**  
*Sponsored by Umpqua Bank*

**SPIN THE WHEEL**  
*Sponsored by Grocery Outlet*

**SELFIE STATIONS**

**WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST**  
*sponsored by EBID and the Main Street Program*

**CITY HALL JACK-O-LANTERN DISPLAY WITH  
GAMES & CANDY**

**COOKIES AND CIDER AT  
ALL AMERICA SQUARE**  
*Sponsored by the  
Cottage Grove Lions Club, Don Williams, Bohemia Sunrisers  
Kiwanis Club and John Rudolph*

**RC PLANE DRAWING**  
*Sponsored by the Oregon Historical Aviation Museum*

Be sure to check out the.....  
*Parents Lounge, Games, Snapchat GEO Filters, Carousel Animal  
Display, Scavenger Hunt, Death Mobile/Animal House on  
Display, Music and Trick or Treating*

Roads will close prior to the start of the event  
and reopen by 6pm.

[www.facebook.com/cottagegrovechamber](http://www.facebook.com/cottagegrovechamber)



## Safety first on Halloween

For kids, few holidays are more anticipated than Halloween. The chance to dress up in costume and patrol the neighborhood with friends while collecting treats is the highlight of many a child's autumn.

For parents, anticipation is replaced by anxiety. While kids are out trick-or-treating, parents may be home or at work hoping their kids are safe and sound. Because Halloween is so popular among kids, it's hard for parents to forbid trick-or-treating. But parents should instruct kids on the following tips to ensure this Halloween is as safe as it is fun.

- Strangers' homes are off limits. Make sure kids know they should never enter the home of a stranger, no matter how friendly or welcoming that stranger may seem.
- There's no going it alone. Kids should not be permitted to go out alone. When trick-or-treating, kids should always be accompanied not only by their friends, but there must be at least one adult chaperone present at all times. Parents should get together several weeks before Halloween to determine who will chaperone, where kids will be trick-or-treating and during what hours.
- Stay close to home. Kids should stay in their own neighborhood and only visit homes of neighbors they know. Advise kids to steer clear of homes whose doors are hidden from street view. Chaperones should accompany kids to the front door if visibility from the street is poor.

- Choose safe costumes. Kids should wear costumes made of light colored material. If a child insists on a favorite costume that uses largely dark material, attach reflective tape to the costume so your favorite reveler is easily visible to motorists during twilight and nighttime hours when it's not always easy for drivers to see.

- No toy guns. Toy guns are just asking for trouble, as many of today's replicas are easily confused with the real thing. Play it safe and choose costumes that aren't accessorized with toy guns.

- Bring a flashlight along. Night falls quickly in late October, so kids and chaperones alike should carry a flashlight to improve their visibility and make them more visible to passing motorists.

- Stick to the sidewalks. Trick-or-treaters should stick to the sidewalks and always cross the street at corners. Don't walk in the street, and never walk between parked cars when crossing the street, as it's especially difficult for motorists to anticipate pedestrians walking or running from behind parked cars into the street.

- Be wary of masks. Many masks restrict a child's vision, so look for one that provides sufficient visibility. If a child's favorite mask is low on visibility, make children agree to remove their mask when crossing the street.

*Parents understandably worry when kids go trick-or-treating. But a few simple safety lessons shared with children can ensure everyone gets home safe.*

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# HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!