

Organizations pulling off tricks to keep this Halloween a safe treat

October 23, 2020



In a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has cancelled many events due to safety concerns, several organizations are still finding ways to host a safe Halloween event for the community.

Here's a look at events going on around the region for all ages.

California Highway Patrol's 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat

Get all the ghosts and goblins in the family decked out in their best costume and head out to the California Highway Patrol's 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat Oct. 31, from 2-4 p.m. Located in the CHP parking lot at 1630 Summer Lane, CHP Officer Brandy Gonzalez said they're taking every precaution to make this a fun event for everyone.

"We're following different guidelines this year, opening the parking lot differently, restructuring it to limited spacing, with participants entering one way, exiting another way, keeping one-way traffic the entire route,"

Gonzalez said.

Caltrans is helping to sectioning off each participating “trunk,” officers will be on hand to guide participants through, with clear markings on the ground every six feet so social distancing is respected.

Gonzalez said participating organizations will be following Del Norte County Public Health Officer Dr. Warren Rehwaldt’s recommendation to offer prepackaged candy to give it time to air out any potential virus exposure.

She said there will be returning trunks and displays from local law enforcement agencies, including the Crescent City police and fire departments, the Del Norte County Sheriff’s Office, the Fort Dick Fire Department, Del Norte Ambulance, Cal Ore Reach Ambulance, Pelican Bay Honor Guard, the U.S. Army the Yurok Tribe and more. Plus there will be participating organizations from SeaQuake and Walgreens to Les Schwab and Tractor Supply.

Gonzalez “guestimated” between 1,000 to 1,500 youth participated last year and doesn’t see any problems accommodating those numbers this year with the new social distancing guidelines in place.

“We’re really excited about it. Everyone’s been through a lot this year. This is an opportunity for us to bring a little bit of normalcy to those kids,” Gonzalez said. “They’re resilient, but we need to realize they need this more than we do. We’ve put a lot of thought into this due to the COVID situation to make this as safe and fun as possible for everyone.”

Lucky 7 Casino Halloween Party

For the adults, the Lucky 7 Casino presents an all-day Halloween Party Oct. 31. Lucky 7 Marketing Director Devin Jacot said the event is spread throughout the day rather than a one- or two-hour party, so as not to emphasize a group gathering.

“We wanted to offer a place to go while staying safe,” Jacot said.

He said the costume contest runs all day, so stop by any time to get your photo. Judging takes place at the end of the day and winners will be notified.

In addition, there will be drink specials, Halloween themed games on the slots and participation games.

To keep with COVID-19 safety measures, Jacot said everyone needs to wear mask, temperatures will be checked on the way in, physical distancing will be enforced, the bar will be at 25% capacity, every other machine will be off on the casino floor and every other table will be out of service in the restaurant.

Jacot added several areas will be decked out for that spooky, Halloween feel.

“We want to be a strong community partner while still having something to come out and do,” he said. “We want to strike that balance.”

David’s Haunted Manor cancelled

Not every popular attraction will be back this year. For the first time in its history, David's Haunted Manor has been cancelled.

"Due to safety concerns and restrictions to social distancing, it's just not something we thought we could accomplish," said JoAnn Holcomb, wife of manor founder David. "Based off no gatherings of more than 10 or more people, using the CDC's guidelines, it was just not physically feasible to have actors and guests in the building at the same time."

David's Haunted Manor has been an annual event since 1999, when David started it as kid at his parents house. It moved, when he grew and the attraction grew, to the Del Norte Fairgrounds for a while before settling at its current location at the old England Marine building at the Crescent City Harbor.

"People are pretty bummed," JoAnn said. "We'll be back next year. If for whatever reason there's the same restrictions, we'll find a way to have it. We won't miss two years in a row, ever. That's a promise."

Chetco Pelican Players Haunted House #17

Not all haunted house attractions have been cancelled. To the north of Crescent City, the Chetco Pelican Players present their Haunted House #17. The Asylum, located at 16185 Highway 101 and Hoffeldt Lane, is open Oct. 23-25 and 29-31, from 7-10 p.m. and from 7-11 p.m. on Halloween. Admission is \$10 and requires a mask for public safety. The haunted house is a fundraiser benefit for the non profit Chetco Pelican Players Theater Group.

Self-Taught Nature Walk

The Del Norte County Recreation Department presents a Self-Taught Nature Walk Oct. 24 at Florence Keller Campground. Take a walk through the Halloween decorated Redwood Forest and learn all about the giant trees and animals that call this place home. Tours are \$15 per child, who must be accompanied by an adult and times are once an hour 1-4 p.m. Halloween costumes are encouraged, but not required. COVI-19 safety measures will be enforced, including temperature check, face covering, social distancing and hand sanitizing. For more information, contact the Del Norte Recreation Department at recreation@co.del-norte.ca.us or (707) 464-7237.

Pumpkin Carving Contest

The Del Norte Recreation Department presents a virtual pumpkin carving contest. There will be two categories — funny and scary. Pumpkins can be carved or painted. Once completed send in a photo of you and your pumpkin to recreation@co.del-norte.ca.us from Oct. 26 through Nov. 1. Winners will be announced on the recreation department's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/delnorterecreation>. First and second place prizes will be awarded in each category. First prize is a \$50 gift card to Fog Bank or Local Boys Surf & Skate Shop. Second place gets a \$20 gift card to Dutch Bros. For more information, contact the Del Norte Recreation Department at recreation@co.del-norte.ca.us or (707) 464-7237.

A Family Pumpkin Carving Day

The Del Norte Recreation Department presents A Family Pumpkin Carving Day, Oct. 28 from 5-7 p.m. at Pyke Field, located at 1005 H Street. Participants can carve a pumpkin on site, in which carving materials will be provided, or receive a take-home carving kit, which includes a pumpkin, carving tools and stencils. The cost is \$10 per pumpkin. On-site participants will be required to wear a face mask. For more information, contact the Del Norte Recreation Department at recreation@co.del-norte.ca.us or (707) 464-7237.

Foursquare Church CARnival

The Crescent City Foursquare Church presents a CARnival, Oct. 31 from 5-8 p.m. Organizers invited families to jump in the and join them for their drive through event, located at 144 Butte St. There will be games, food, fun and candy. Social distancing will be practiced, so all workers will wear masks and families will remain in their cars except to play the games. To learn more, call (707) 464-9501.