

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR PARENTS ON TRICK OR TREAT NITE:

- **SPECIAL observances because of COVID.** *Please be aware that not everyone wants strangers at or near their house for a variety of reasons. In light of this, please be aware that if someone does not have their front porch lights on – they are not participating in Trick or Treat – just go to the next lit up house. Thank you in advance for respecting & observing their wishes.*
- **Adults should plan out a route in advance** and check it during the daylight for such obstacles as broken sidewalks (or no sidewalks), construction timber, or other obstacles that could trip up trick or treaters. Trick or treat in familiar neighborhoods or areas.
- **Require well-fitting shoes** to be worn; preferably sneakers. While adorable in the store as a costume accessory, kids planning to go trick or treat should wear sturdy shoes and not the princess high-heel, too-large boots, or other types of shoes often shown with costumes. Save those types of shoes for costume parties and not when a child is going trick or treat. Their feet--and most likely you who may end up carrying either the shoes or the child--will be thankful.
- **Avoid costumes that drag on the ground.** While cute initially, costumes that drag can trip up little feet, get caught on bushes, and create a tussle that sometimes results in the child wanting to remove the costume. Remember, kids who trick or treat want to be costumed AND comfortable.
- With the thought of comfort, **pick costumes that are bathroom-friendly as well.** On this same subject, parents should pre-plan a bathroom stop along the way (a friend's house will do and is a good time for a water break as well), or at a public facility if driving.
- **Be sure a child's mask allows full visibility and breathing.** Spiderman masks, for example, sometimes only have small eye slits and nothing for the nose or mouth. Parents should try on masks for size and not hesitate to cut out larger openings for a trick or treaters' comfort. If possible, find a mask that "breathes" and is easy to put on and off. The types of mask that easily can slide up on the head and then pulled down are best.
- **Trick or treaters should walk**, not run, and should never cut across lawns or driveways. Obstacles could exist that aren't readily visible in the evening.
- **Only carry flexible props**, such as knives, swords, ninja items, etc., that can't cause injury if a kid accidentally falls. No play prop should resemble the real item; and consider leaving play weapons at home and not part of trick or treat night. Remember, some individuals are offended by seeing small children carry these items; and trick or treating should be a fun and positive experience for everyone.
- **Only trick or treat at houses that are lit.** Residents who do not wish to be bothered by trick or treaters often leave off their lights as a sign; respect their preference by only going to houses that are lit.