

TRUNK OR TREAT

A Trunk or Treat is a Halloween alternative activity where people park their cars in a large parking lot. They open and decorate the back of their vehicle in order to hand out candy to children. Often the trunks are decorated with a theme.

Do kids dress up for trunk or treat?

Kids are often encouraged to dress up but are not required to. Trunk or treat is another way for children to have fun and collect candy. Instead of going from door-to-door where they don't know the homeowners, they go from vehicle to vehicle in a safe location.

How does trunk or treat work?

A trunk or treat is a growing popular alternative for kids to safely collect candy on Halloween. Parents will bring their children to their church or another community event where people will have their trunks open and hand out candy. Children are encouraged to follow the path of cars to collect their candy.

How do you organize the candy?

There are many easy and creative ways you can organize your candy for a trunk or treat. The easiest way is to keep your candy in the bag and hand to children as they come to your trunk. A creative way would be to place the candy in a big bowl and make the candy part of your trunk's theme and display. If you need help in purchasing candy, please let Pastor Frankie or the church office know. If you would like to donate candy and not have a vehicle in the event, that is appreciated also.

Planning

Those planning to decorate their cars need to register in advance. This will give us an idea of how much space is needed to be reserve for vehicles.

Vehicle participants are asked to decorate their cars according to a theme and it is suggested that they wear a costume that goes with it.

Guidelines for Decorated Trunks

In signup forms for cars participating in trunk or treat, include these details:

Setup

3:30-4:30 set up cars before the festivities begin. Someone will be on-site to direct cars to parking spaces, each registered car will be given a number that matches a parking space number. Numbers will be drawn on the parking lot in chalk ahead of time.

Tickets

Kids stop at each car just once. This will reduce the chance of running out of candy or prizes early. Each child will receive a card with blank boxes. An adult at each station will stamp an empty box. When every box is full, the child is done trick-or-treating. The cards can be used to track attendance and estimate how much candy to buy next year. Depending on participation, once a child has completed the path there may be opportunity to get a new card and go through it again.

Crowd Control

Any time lots of children are near a large amount of candy, things can get chaotic. If you're concerned that the crowd at your trunk or treat might grow too big, try one of these strategies:

Limit entry and exit points and count in a certain number of people at a time.

A volunteer will be at the entrance to take photos of families (with their own cell phones) if desired. Having a volunteer on photo duty will help the line move more quickly than if families take their own photos.

Contests

Awards are given for the **top decorated trunks** that go along with our theme. Prizes for the **best costumes at a trunk**, **guess the weight of the pumpkin** at registration, and the **candy corn count**.

Pumpkin decorating contest. Pumpkins will need to be brought by 4:30. When people come through the registration table; they will be given a ticket to vote for their favorite pumpkin by placing it into a jar in front of the pumpkin they are voting for.

Door prizes will also be given.

Photos will be taken and shared on [Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/EastValleyNazarene/\)](https://www.facebook.com/EastValleyNazarene/), [Instagram \(https://www.instagram.com/eastvalley_naz/\)](https://www.instagram.com/eastvalley_naz/), and on <https://www.evnaz.org>.

Food

Bottle water will be provided

Cleanup

Provide trash cans in several locations for attendees to place empty candy wrappers or used water cups. Require those who decorate their cars to clean up their own space.