

HOW TO HOST A HALLOWEEN PARTY

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Introduction



Why should you host a Halloween party

As the fall months start to come closer and closer to us, it's time to start thinking about your Halloween party. While there are many people who would never host a Halloween party for any reason, it's actually a fun way to start the fall holidays. The reasons are, candy is huge during the month, people get to interact without the need to actually give gifts, people are able to dress up and play silly games with no fear of looking stupid and it's one of the few holidays that adults can join the kid like fun. Let's go over these reasons directly so that you can decide if hosting a Halloween party is for you:

Candy is so huge.

It's funny that many people try to diet within this month because it's the month before the heavy eating time (Thanksgiving) but the truth is this month is just as bad as the others. Kids get to go house by house and enjoy free candy from all of them! Many times kids come home with big huge bags of candy and a hyper state of mind as well. It's fun for them and can even be fun for their parents. Hosting a party allows you to eat and provide tons of candy for everyone.

Having a good time doesn't require giving people gifts.

One thing that drives people away from Christmas parties is that you might be required to bring gifts to

the party. That's not true when it comes to Halloween parties. The reason is, it's all about having fun and eating sweets instead of celebrating a holiday.

You actually get to dress up as fun things and play all kinds of silly games.

It's fun to go to parties and play kid games like bingo or cards or even guessing games. The fun of being able to interact with adults while in a silly costume is very more fun. There are so many silly Halloween themed games, the possibilities are endless.

The ability to have kid like fun.

Costume parties are funny but many times the ones throughout the year are limited to just adults.

During Halloween, adults and kids are able to spend time at the party as long as it's good clean fun.

Hosting a Halloween party is a ton of fun if you know how to do it. This book will be your guideline and help you turn your party into something truly amazing and something people talk about all throughout the remaining holiday months.



Preparing For Your Halloween Party

With any party deciding what to do, where to do and how to do it is super important. The last thing you want is to confuse people and have it be difficult for people to actually go to your party. You want to prepare for your Halloween party early so that you can budget for all the needed things without having to wait for the last few minutes. Here are ways to successfully prepare for your Halloween party:

Develop a budget

All parties cost money but generally because of the creativity factor within a Halloween party, they tend to cost a bit more compared to other holiday parties in the fall. You might spend as much as \$2000 on your party just because of decorations and light entertainment. While other holidays are much more limited, but the things that can be done, a Halloween party is only limited by a budget.

You need a budget for invitation, games, decorations, food and entertainment. You want to make sure that you keep your budget handy and also have a paper that can chart what you are spending money on and how much you are spending. This will save you a ton of headaches in the long run because it will remove cost confusion completely.

Enlist help early

The last thing you need is a crowded room of adults and kids all asking you for something when you already have 4 things to do at that time. Getting help from neighbors, friends or even family members can make it so much easier for you. Ask for help even before you start building your shopping and to

do list

There are a few great ways to ask for help when it comes to hosting a Halloween party. One way is to take the person to dinner or lunch and ask them directly. It's easier to just get a no that way as well.

Another way is to just ask by phone and point out the fun of the party.

Let's, however, assume that you can't get anyone of your friends or family or even your neighbors to help you with your party. You can also hire a party planner depending on the size of a party you are hoping to have. The only problem with using a party planner is that many times they are already busy planning Christmas parties. So instead of waiting for October 1st to ask for help from a party planner, ask them right away as soon as you decide to use one.

Don't be surprised that even a party planner says no. Many will for a ton of different reasons. Don't just let the cost scare you because it will require an invest. At some point you are going to do have to decide if you are going to actively search for help for a bigger party or if you are going to keep things much more basic and not hire any help at all.

Plan a date

Now that you have someone to help you host your Halloween party, it's time to go over the date of the party. Generally you will do your party on Halloween night but it can be changed and done that weekend if your helper works or if you do.

Planning a date for your Halloween party is easier than planning on for a wedding but it can have it's elements of hardness thrown in for good measure. Sometimes things come up that can't be moved ahead or after your party.

Be sure to go over all dates with your helper and also look at the time needed to gather all your needed supplies. There is no reason to plan a party for the 31st if you know that you have to work an eight hour shift that same day. It just won't work out and will end up giving you a headache and effecting your health because of it.

Once you've chosen your date, you will need to let people know at least 3 weeks in advance about the party. You want to give people enough time to plan and enough time to decide what they will dress up as.

Create a check list

Once you know everything you need and it's written down for easy looking, your party planing gets easier by the minute. Your check list will be the heart of your Halloween party. You want something that works great for easy storage and something that can be changed as needed. It's recommended that

you visit the internet and find creative checklist designs that promote you to use them as needed. Many times you can find printable checklist and planners on Etsy.com. The checklist doesn't have to be Halloween themed, it just needs to be easy to use and effective at getting things done off of it.

Once you've gather your check list it's time to fill it up with all things Halloween party. You want to then write down all the things that need to be completed. It's recommended that you create three to five checklist instead of just one. Those check list would be used for Cleaning of the house, decoration, shopping, food and extras. You want to make sure you keep those check list safe.

Grab a great notebook

Just like using check lists is super important to have, the same applies for your notebook. Generally you will need either a very large 5 subject notebook or something super small that you'd find a designer store. Using a note book to keep track of all your details, food and ideas is a great way to keep things organized. The last thing you need is forgetting something as important as napkins on the day of the party.

One thing to note, you're welcome to put your check lists within your notebook but remember you'd be taking that notebook with your everywhere. It might get heavy. Using a basic sheet of paper will make things so much easier. It will allow you to build a more creative check list and remove it as needed as well. Most notebooks have folder areas to make holding sheets of paper so much easier.

When you get your notebook also get supplies like high lighters, markers, pens and pencils, erasers and other things that make writing within it so much easier.

Look for discounts early in advance

Many stores offer Halloween stuff as soon as September. Some even offer things within the August. You can stock up on decorations at this time or you can start getting creative with craft supplies as well. Grabbing discounts on things like food items for your recipes can also come in handy. Be sure to visit discount stores within your area to find cheap food and even cheaper decorations.

Remember that many things can be used more than one way. Don't limit yourself to just what it's front of your face instead, expand your imagination and see what the same item can be with a bit of imagination and thought.

Before you start shopping – also look for coupons online to see what else you might need that will be cheaper. You can also grab the newspaper to get more discounts as well. Many places these days offer the match price system, you can always use that along with some great coupons and save truck loads of money.

As you can see preparing for your Halloween party is super important and can be the driving force to a successful party that everyone is looking forward to. It's important to note all of these things before you even start getting your party ready. With these preparing tips, you wouldn't be spending extra money on things you don't need.

Invitations



With a party comes the need for invitations. Because you are hosting a Halloween parties your invitations must either say Halloween party or must show that it's a Halloween party. The great thing is that there are tons of places to buy amazing Halloween party invitations You also have the option to make your own if you have the time to do it.

Picking your theme

Having a themed Halloween party is a lot of fun but not really required within the party itself but it is required within your invitations You want to know ahead of time your main creatures and how they will be displayed in the cards. You are also welcome to go super simple and use nice black and white cards. Just make sure the theme of card you choose doesn't make you think wedding. A neat trick on how to use wedding cards for your Halloween party is listed in the tip area. Being creative with your invitations can really set the tone of your party. It's much easier to make a basic invitations if you want a very basic card. Simply don't limited yourself with the things you want or don't want.

Know how many people you will be inviting

You should have a number in mind based on your location and how much you can afford to entertain as well. You should already know the overall budget of your whole party as well as the amount of every element of your party as well. If you did your preparing right, it will be easy to gather supplies to make your invitations You can of course also order them premade. Or take premade invitations and update

them with nice features to make them personal to your party and your needs.

Elements needed on your invitations

It's important to note what things your invitations should have on them besides the location and time of the party. You should include something silly and fun that notes that it's a Halloween party. Other elements to include would be telling people that there is a costume party and that there will be prizes given away for a number of things. You can also note what kind of games you will be playing as well. Calling your guest silly names within a cute poem is also fun. You can say things like "Calling all Witches and Goblins, it's time to dance, party and eat." There are tons of silly options for your invitations as well. There are a few poems that can be used below to add some fun to your party invitations within a few minutes.

How to make your own

Making your own invitations will of course take more time but will be completely worth it to see the look on a person's face when they open it. The easiest invitations to make are pop up ones or 3d ones that look more advanced then they really are. You can get creative and even have someone draw some cute pictures for your cards.

The best way to make your own is to get creative and look at magazines to get ideas. There are tons of places that provide you with amazing invitation ideas. You can look in magazines, books, all over the internet or you can ask friends and family. Because Halloween is such a funny and silly holiday it's okay to actually have fun with your designs. Unlike with Christmas where you are stuck with a theme that is holly and pure, you are able to use silly pictures of monsters, spiders and even bats within your images.

How soon to send

The question that many people ask is how soon should they send there invitations It's hard to say when actually but the earlier the better. It's very important to note if other people are having a party that same weekend or not. You also want to make sure that your guest can plan for the party well in advance so that they can gather their costume or if you are having a potluck party – so that they can plan the meal they will bring. The time you send your cards is personal choice but giving your guest time to plan is highly recommended.

Email or Snail Mail?

These days email and facebook are the rulers of inviting people. If you decide to go with email then of

course you won't need to make amazing invitations for your party. But the truth is people take things more seriously if you actually give them an invitation to your party. It's the comfort of having something in your hand to always remind you of the party that you might be going to. Make sure that you have a way to RSVP on either version of card. This will allow you to keep track of who's coming and who's not. Also make sure to note if they are bringing a date with them or children with them. Knowing how many children you will be having at your party will allow you to plan enough games and a good supply of food for them as well.

Halloween Poems To Use

After looking online I found these amazing poems that can be used for your invitations Of course you don't have to use creative poems within your invitations but it does add some fun to your party and might increase the likelihood of your guest coming to your party. You might make them smile with your silly use of words which is always a good thing.

Eat, Drink and Be Batty at the Henderson's Halloween House Party!

Calling all Witches, Goblins and Ghosts, the Millers are your Halloween Hosts!

Join us for a Spooktacular time!

Come hang out for a spell at the Stepic's Halloween House Party!

If you like a scare and are fond of fright, join us for a party on Halloween night!

Fly or Float, just don't be tardy... to our Annual Halloween Costume Party

Scare up a costume and join us for a Halloween House Party

A Halloween Party is Brewing!

Stop on by for a trick or a treat, we've plenty to drink and more to eat!

Creep, fly or crawl to our annual Halloween Ball!

RSVP by 10/20 or a spell shall be cast on that very date, to make you sorry you made me wait!

If you're not too "drained", RSVP by October 22nd. Can I "Count" on you to come?

We're dying to hear from you... RSVP no later than October 25th.

Wording #1

The spooky night calls

All vampires, ghouls, demons and all creepy spirits...

To come and crawl on over to our Halloween boo bash

(Date, time and place)

Wording #2

*Come and dance with the monster and elf
And dress so that others jump out of their skin,
Bring your skeleton and yourself
Wearing a spooky hat and a goblin's grin!
(Date, time and place)*

Wording #3

*Do not forget to carry the scales of snakes and tails of lizards
And some screeching sounds of bats,
Let's make this night a Halloween special
And get ready for a great pumpkin smash!
(Date, time and place)*

Wording #4

*The lord of the night
Has summoned you tonight
To be a part of his Scary delight,
Do not refuse this invitation
As something awful may happen...
You'll miss out on all the fun!
(Date, time and place)*

Wording #5

*I have been doing nothing all these years
And my grave is full of tears,
Let's have fun with all our ghostly friends
On this Halloween night which may never end...
(Date, time and place)*

Wording #6

*Park your brooms
Hang your wings,*

*Put on your tall pointy hats and Halloween masks
Carry the pumpkins and light the candles...
Dress up and play pretend...
It's Halloween when we will party till the end.
(Date, time and place)*

Halloween Quotes

*Apart from the above examples, you can also add some quotes to make your wordings scarier and
'More Halloweener'!*

*One need not be a chamber to be haunted;
One need not be a house;
The brain has corridors surpassing
Material place.
- Emily Dickinson.*

*'Tis the night - the night
Of the grave's delight,
And the warlocks are at their play;
Ye think that without
The wild winds shout,
But no, it is they - it is they.
- Arthur Cleveland Coxen.*

*Shadows of a thousand years rise again unseen,
Voices whisper in the trees, "Tonight is Halloween!"
- Dexter Kozen.*

*Double, double toil and trouble; fire burn and cauldron bubble.
- Shakespeare.*

*As spirits roam the neighborhoods at night,
Let loose upon the Earth till it be light...*

- Nicholas Gordon

A grandmother pretends she doesn't know who you are on Halloween.

- Erma Bombeck

*Halloween wraps fear in innocence,
As though it were a slightly sour sweet.
Let terror, then, be turned into a treat...*

- Nicholas Gordon

*When witches go riding,
and black cats are seen,
the moon laughs and whispers,
'tis near Halloween.*

- Author Unknown

*Bring forth the raisins and the nuts-
Tonight All-Hallows' Specter struts
Along the moonlit way.*

- John Kendrick Bangs

*You wouldn't believe
On All Hallow Eve
What lots of fun we can make,
With apples to bob,
And nuts on the hob,
And a ring-and-thimble cake.*

- Carolyn Wells

*On Halloween, witches come true;
Wild ghosts escape from dreams.
Each monster dances in the park....*

- Nicholas Gordon

Websites to buy invitations

Invitation Cards:

Price in \$ per piece

tinyprints.com/- 1.39 for 10 cards, drops to 0.79 for 100 cards

invitationbox.com/ 3.4 for 10, 1.05 for 100

paperstyle.com/- 2.4 for 20, 1.2 for 70

zazzle.com/ 1.50 for 10, 0.97 for 100

cardstore.com/- 1.29 for 1, 0.89 for 100

shutterfly.com/ 0.69 per piece for 12 cards, 0.55 for 100

purpletrail.com/ 2.63 for 10, 1.58 for 100

minted.com/ 2.56 for 25, 1.63 for 100

cardsshoppe.com/ 1.49 for 15, 1.14 for 100

myexpression.com/- 0.695 for 10, 69.5 for 100

Etsy.com Starting at \$2 per invitations

Conclusion

Creating great invitations isn't as hard as you might think, it's an art and really depends on you and the type of party you are hoping to have. Don't limit yourself to what you can find at the store or online, instead create something amazing on your own or with the help of others as well. However if you have the idea to invite a large number of people to your party , creating 100 or more invitations on your own or even with the help of others is just too hard. Instead, adding add on elements would be perfect!

Buying premade invitations is just as good – order them early and send them just as quickly.



Decorations

Decorating for Halloween is not only fun but challenging . The reason is , there are so many choices that make it easy to get carried away and go nuts. There are tons of stores that are dedicated just to Halloween items and you can also find a ton of them all over the internet as well as local stores.

When it comes to decorating, the sky is really the limit and there are tons of ways to show your creative skills without having to spend a ton of money.

Money on decorations can add up quickly if you don't plan correctly and end up buying too many things that you don't need and most likely won't use. Keep your budget handy while shopping for your decorations to avoid any issues with money or drama with family over those extras.

The 5 must haves

There are five things every home needs when hosting a Halloween party. Of course you aren't limited to just these things. The things listed below are suggestions that will make your home look like Halloween faster than ever.

Pumpkins

Pumpkins are a huge part of Halloween because they are a symbol of fall and it's harvest. A lot of people assume that if you buy a pumpkin you have to spend all day carving it and making a silly face on it. If you've never carved a pumpkin before it can take hours just to do a few elements. This is especially true if you don't have the right tools to make your pumpkin.

But the good thing is that there are tons of ways to add pumpkins to your home without having to carve them yourself or at all. One way is to get a strong person to do it for you. If you know the guy at the corner house is strong and has some great tools for cutting, ask him to make a face for you. If he's strong and/or if he has the tools needed it might take him a few minutes.

Another option is to buy them pre-carved. Some crafts stores provide those now because it really does save a person a lot of time. You can even ask the floral department if they will make some custom pumpkins for you. Be sure to have a design in mind when you are ordering and a picture of that design so they know what you are looking for. This will cost money but normally it's worth it.

Lastly, another option is to paint your pumpkin instead of carving it. Let's be honest, carving a pumpkin is really gross. The seeds, the flesh and all other things within the pumpkin are hard at times and just plain gross. Taking a paint brush and some pretty fall colors with some glitter can be a great thing for your party. You can also use the pumpkin to create non pumpkin faces such as monsters, witches, fairies and everything else you can think of. All those creatures can be made by carving or by not carving the choice really is yours.

Candles

A lot of people forget the scents of the holiday because normally candles are used in the winter. The truth is the fall scent of pumpkin or even gingerbread can really invite people into your home to stay for a longer period of time. Getting candles is very easy and many times you can grab only two or three and be done with it. Make sure the scent is long lasting by testing it before your party. Determine which scent works the best with the food you are serving. The last thing you want is your candle overpowering the smell of cooking food and thus making the food taste almost like the candle itself. Because of that element, try to limit the amount of candles that is next your food. You can still add candles around your food but instead of scented ones, go for the basic non scented instead to keep the light the same but the scent gone from your area.

Serving Bowls

You will need a lot of snacks so making sure that you have 5 to 10 serving bowls is a must. So many

times people forget the element of just general snacks like chips , dip and candy also need a special place on your table. You can get really creative with your serving bowls by adding silly elements, funny looking toys within the bowl and other things as well. Use a range of sizes and make sure that they also match as well. You will also need a creative punchbowl. Instead of going with a scary looking punch bowl, go for a scary (but tasty) punch instead. Get super fun by making your punch glow or adding silly things like eye balls inside of it to make people giggle as they serve themselves.

Something Scary

Of course a Halloween party has to have an element of fear in it. This doesn't mean you scare people all the time it means you might have something pop out at them and gets a scream and laugh in response. The main elements of Halloween are fear so it's okay to get a good laugh in.

Many times people use themselves to add the scarey element to their party. They might dress up in a crazy outfit or they might enter the home in a completely different way. But you aren't limited to only those elements. Instead, you can add surprises in every room of your party or you can have crazy music playing in certain areas as well.

Don't forget things like fog machines and recreating scenes from horror movies. The design ideas are truly limited because it's all about how creative you are and how you happy you are able to make your guest.

Whatever scary thing you add, make sure that you make it scary for a few minutes and silly for the rest. The last thing you want is parents calling you the next day saying “your scary element” made their kids have nightmares. It should be a surprise element that will make someone laugh right after being scared!

Something Silly

Just like the scary element , you need something silly as well. And no, these things can not be the same elements. It's true that you want your scary element to turn into something silly, it's not the same thing for your silly element.

The good thing is that normally your silly element will be something very basic and normally a piece of decoration that doesn't move at all. It can be a figurine or maybe it's how you serve your food or maybe it's within one of your games. The idea is to have fun with it. Go for something both silly and cute and you should be fine.

Why the small things count

The fun thing about hosting a Halloween party is that you can use even the smallest pieces of

decoration and it can make a huge difference. Just because the item is small doesn't mean people aren't going to notice them.

Things like figurines, small little things that make your tables look amazing, small little things that outline where to walk and how to get to the main things. You don't always have to go big in order to make someone smile and be impressed with your party because not only is it fun but it's also pretty. You can find small things online at all kinds of websites. You can also make things by hand for your decorations. Making small little crocheted characters is always a great way to add some cute and maybe even silly elements to your tables. You can find things at thrift stores, flea markets and even yard sales as well. Anything fall focused or even silly and Halloween like would be perfect for your party as well.

What about the game playing locations

Games are apart of parties. While you can have a party without games, it won't be as fun for those that are shy and distant from the others. Adding easy decorations to your gaming area is also recommended. You can add things like table cloths and cup holders and small elements like the many mentioned above. You don't want people to be forced to move things onto the floor once they start playing the game instead you want them to just play as is.

The best way to avoid people having to move items away from tables is to place the open game on the table and then decorate around it. This will allow you to see the finished product once the table is set. Plus, you will know if your guest are playing or not which is so much easier and much more fun.

Serving food in unique ways

Food is the heart of a party and knowing how you will showcase your food is always fun. Consider being fun about your food serving. Go with something unique and one of a kind instead of something dull. You can create things that can become serving items or you can use premade items creatively. With some smart brainstorming within your notebook, you can find some amazing items that can be turned into serving tools. For example, jars are great looking for experiments and can be used to hold all kinds of dips for your chips. You can use simple old fashion labels to name your experiments and then place the actual name of the dip on the bottom of the name. This will add a cute element and something unique as well as feed your guest. Just make sure you make more than one jar for each dip. There are tons of unique ways to serve food, don't be limited to what you can find online instead look in magazines and in books as well. You can also look at things that aren't for Halloween and use them to give you more ideas on how to show case your food. Things like boxes, or tins or anything else can

be great as well.

Resources

<http://www.marthastewart.com/275513/indoor-halloween-decorations/@center/276965/halloween>

<http://entertaining.about.com/od/halloween/a/halloweenguide.htm>

<http://www.bhg.com/halloween/outdoor-decorations/>

<http://www.hgtv.com/halloween-ideas/package/index.html>

<http://www.halloween-website.com/decorating.htm>

<http://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/1011/top-4-affordable-halloween-decor-ideas.aspx#axzz26qNhdDv5>

<http://www.countryliving.com/crafts/projects/pumpkin-decorating-1009#slide-1>

<http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/741181>

<http://www.halloweentips.com/halloween-decorations.html>

<http://www.wilton.com/celebrations/Halloween/>

<http://www.countryliving.com/crafts/projects/craft-ideas-for-halloween-1009#slide-2>

<http://pinterest.com/khodoly/halloween-decorating-ideas-scare-tactics-indoors-a/>

<http://theadventurouswriter.com/blog/decorating-tips-for-halloween-parties-homemade-and-not/>

<http://www.diynetwork.com/topics/halloween/index.html>

<http://www.realsimple.com/holidays-entertaining/holidays/halloween/outdoor-halloween-decorations-00100000066091/index.html>

<http://www.parenting.com/gallery/haunted-house-decorations>

Food



You already know that food is the heart of any party. Without good food – people just won't like the party. A Halloween party is based on unique ways to show the food and the sweet flavors that come from the holiday. The point is to have fun and keep your guest having a great time as well. The idea is to keep them guessing on what they might taste next.

The Scary and The Not So Scary

This is a hard choice for most because it depends on who you are inviting to your party. If you are inviting children to your party or families to your party – scary food is not a good idea. The last thing you want to happen is to have children afraid to taste the food simply because it looks really scary or really gross. Even if it might taste amazing, they might not want to even taste it based on it's looks. Go for scary for an adult only party and go for not so scary for a blend of ages. Keep your dishes simple so that you can design them into something Halloween like. You want to make them taste amazing and consider their look later on. It can seem difficult but after you look around in books and online it will become easier and easier and thus help you a lot.

How to make ugly looking food taste amazing

It has to look either ugly or cute scary! So making food look ugly is super fun. For example cupcakes covered with green icing and eye balls and spiders are great for creating an ugly look. Let's say those cupcakes were also filled with a nice creamy feeling – that makes them taste amazing. So blending the ugly with the yummy is all about Halloween, you want something special and something unique as well. Don't limit the ugliest to just cupcakes, dip can also look ugly with the right dye and the right serving dish. Don't just stop at sweets and dips, go for main courses as well.

Sweets VS Veggies

Because it's Halloween people assume the only thing needed to feed people are sweets. But the truth is Halloween can be all about veggies as well. There is no reason you can't make your veggies look like sweets or at least taste like them. Even vegans and vegetarians enjoy Halloween themed veggies. Of course using sweets is easier but not always healthy. Using veggies like celery, carrots, broccoli and other things will add tons more color to your food and also provide a great option for those that might currently be on a diet. Make sure that you take the time to be creative with your veggies just like you would if they were candy or cakes.

Where to get ideas

During this time of month, holiday ideas are nearly never ending. You can go to the book store and grab dozens of magazines that talk about Halloween and it's fine. However, even with all those ideas in magazines, you still might need more. The internet will help you with that as well as cake decorating stores and classes. You will be able to enjoy the lessons while learning new things about Halloween and it's fun. Ideas are not limited to just online and in paper, you can get creative with friends and family and go from there. Don't limit your ideas to just what you can see in a few Halloween themes magazines that might not offer enough designs in the first place.

Entertainment

Of course your party is going to need some kind of entertainment as well. It's a complete must to have something for your guest to do besides just eat and talk to one another. Communication is important within a party and the best way to get people communicating is with entertainment.

Music and dancing

It's time to get the party started and let people in your home dance the night way in their costumes as a group, a couple or even alone. No reason to just let people sit around with nothing to do when they should be getting active!

You can grab dance music from all types of stores and even online for your MP3 player as well. Don't limit the music to only the songs you enjoy, instead have fun with it and play songs that are just general for your crowd. Be sure to keep your songs PG-13 if you have children there or even have their own kid music playing in a room just for them.

Games and laughter

Games are so important for all parties these days. It's true that many people still play games at parties . But the truth is , when you play games at parties it because a memory unlike any other. There is a long list of games in the game file that will be perfect for any Halloween party. Plus within the package – I've included a few printable games you can play with both kids and adults. Just pick out two to four games from the list and go from there. Gather the supplies and then have a ton of fun playing the game. With games comes laughter. The biggest caution is to make sure the laughter isn't teasing. No one wants or needs to get their feelings hurt at your party. Make sure you note who might be super sensitive (kids for example) and who might be very aggressive within the game itself.

Haunted house

Halloween haunted houses are so much fun and allow you to be super creative as well. You can have a super scary haunted house that would only be for adults. A haunted house for adults might cost more money than one for children because it's much harder to scare an adult than it is to a children. Just be sure you keep in mind the children can get nightmares. Make sure you combine scary with funny to avoid a child from getting overly scared and never wanting to come back.

Games



Games are so important when it comes to creating a great Halloween party. The games below will allow you to have a good time while being able to help your guest have just a good a time as well. It's important to keep in mind the age of your guests and the games they can play. Dividing the games and allowing your guest to choose which games they want to play and where.

Raffles

Holding raffles are so much fun because they allow you to hand out tickets to everyone who comes into your party and then just wait until the end of the party to pick a winner. The biggest element of your raffle will be your prize. You want people to want to stay for your raffle to end. The prize you choose to give should be something fun and something your guest will love. If you have children as your party , consider holding two raffles one for kids and another for adults. There are a list of prize options on the next chapter.

Board games

Board games are tons of fun because there are tons of choose from. You can offer group games or even games for 4 to 6 players as well. The choices are limitless and can allow you to place two to three board games all over your home to fill all your guest gaming needs. It's not recommended that you offer prizes for those that win board games. It can get expensive quickly. It would be cheaper just to offer little goodie bags of candy to those all playing the game instead. Goodie bags normally only cost \$1 to \$2 to make and can be a nice treat to hand out as you see a few people having fun while playing Scrabble or even The Game of Life.

Bingo

All types of bingo is fun but what makes Halloween bingo even more fun is that it's simple and easy to do. Plus it's a group game. I've included a bingo game for you to print out. You get a good selection of cards that allow you to customize them as needed. You have two play options : You can have your guest enter the words within each square and search for those items around the home. Or you can place the words inside the boxes yourself. Make sure that with either version you keep the rules in the same area you have the game supplies at. If you play a bingo game – make sure that you offer a prize as well. The bingo game is based on words instead of images to save you some ink instead of making you use a ton of ink. Be sure to buy enough pens and to place them in all areas of the house next to game cards. You can also play traditional bingo which will require much more focus but is just as fun.

Costume contest

With Halloween comes costumes of course and with costumes you have to have some great prizes for your contest. The prize for your raffle and your costume contest should be either worth the same or similar. Have a costume contest for all three types of guest (kids, men and women) at your party and then a main over all winner.

The key to a successful costume contest is to let your other guest vote. Print out voting sheets and make sure to note that people can not pick themselves because that would be cheating. All you have to do is have a few jars to take the sheets and keep them safe. You should announce the winner of the costume contest at the same time you do the raffle.

Apple bobbing

When it comes to Halloween apple bobbing is a normal thing for the fall because apples are in season and it's a game fun for everyone. Parents love it because it's silly and it promotes healthy eating and kids love it because it allows you to get wet and have some fun in a large group of people.

Remember it's an outdoor game and requires a large amount of water, apples and a large item to hold both elements. Make sure to get good ribbon to hold the person's arms.

Pinata

Pinatas in a party are amazing and fun and Halloween parties could use that element of fun. Depending on the size of your party you might need more than one pinata and make them two different ones instead of all the same thing. Have a set area for both pinatas and place a label on the pinata that states when it will be time to hit it.

Trivia

Trivia is fun also because it allows you to interact with people. Creating a trivia game is a lot of fun but can take a bit of time. You have to make it short but still challenging. I've included a list of 30 questions and answers that you can use to build your own trivia quiz for your guest. To make the game more fun add a time limit to allows your guest to play for a short amount of time and then move on to the next game. Your questions can be anything from candy to history to even about movies and songs. There really is no limit to the things you can place into your trivia game.

Scramble words

Scramble games are wonderful as well. To create your own scramble word games all you do is go online and search for a Halloween word list. Once you've found your list – you then need to find a software that can scramble the words for you. The best option is

<http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/word-scramble/word-scramble-form.php> .

Keep the games short by having the game timed. Remember your words don't have to be Halloween themed instead you can create word list about candies or costumes or even movie titles. It can be anything!

Conclusion

Now that you know a few of the games you can play at your Halloween party, it's time to pick the ones that you like and that you think your guest will like and start getting ready to play them. As long as you

show your guest how much you enjoy your games, they will love them too. Below we will talk about possible prizes to give to your guest. Another important tip is to plan for more game than you might be able to play. Because Halloween is in the middle of fall and early winter – having some back up games is always a good idea just in case your outside parties get ruined because of rain.

Prizes

Parties like a Halloween party is all about fun so it's important to give your guest something in return for winning one of your group games. Remember , you don't need to give actual prizes for the board games instead go with goodie bags instead. Don't go over board with prizes, consider the amount of games, the length of the party and how many people might be showing up.

Food

Yum, who isn't going to love getting free food after winning something fun? Go with something yummy like a fruit cake that is decorated in a spooky way. You can also go for a pretty collection of cupcakes or even something like a complete main dish of food. Make sure the item you bake or buy is easy to make Halloween themed and something nearly all your guest will like.

Gift cards

Gift cards are a ton of fun because it's like money in card form. People enjoy all different types of gift cards so don't feel limited to just the normal. Go for gift cards that are all the same worth instead of changing them up. This would only apply for one single game. If you'd like to give only gift cards out – then go with a range of prices and a range of products.

Electronics

Things that people enjoy within the electronics area is nearly unlimited. You can give away CD's , Ipods and so many other things. The biggest issue is that you must keep your cost low and consider how many winners you might have and thus how many prizes you'd have to buy as well. Keep things simple by visiting discount stores and seeing what else you can buy as well.

Something handmade

Handmade things you can give your guest as a prize include the following , Tshirts ,Art ,Hats ,Stuff Animals ,Paper Stuff, Jewelry, Home décor and even bath and body items. There are tons of handmade

things you can find all over the internet. Just be creative and set a budget for each item. Keep things simple and stick with what you like the most and what you think your guest will like as well. The best places to look for handmade items are craft fairs and online websites such as etsy.com .

Money

Of course money has to be on the list of great prizes. Giving money as a prize is always fun for your guest. Make sure to write out how much every games grand prize would be somewhere where people can see it. The last thing you want is a ton of people asking you throughout the party about the cash prizes.

Goodie Bags

Goodie bags are easy and fun. You can also get super creative with them. They don't have to be the cheap plastic ones instead, you can go with bigger bags with more stuff inside of them. Unlimited things can be added to your goodie bags. The best part of a goodie bag is that while the bag should be Halloween themed the items inside don't have to be. You can fill your bag with candy , pencils, pens, paper, figurines, small pieces of art and everything possible. Go for things that match your theme colors to save some money. You don't have to buy those \$3 Halloween candies when the red candies are only 50cents!

Costumes

Halloween is all about costumes so of course we have to talk costumes and consider some things that people wonder about costumes and Halloween parties.

Why you must dress up

Dressing up is just part of your party and super important. Make sure your costume fits your party and also makes your guest comfortable. The last thing you want is to scare your guest especially if they are children. Instead keep your costume neutral if you are having a party with a wide range of ages.

Where to get costumes

You can find costumes everywhere. Online and within your home town it's completely possible to find what ever kind of costume you might want. If you can't find the complete costume all at one time, try to find elements that can create the costume for you. Here are some websites that provide great costumes.

costumesupercenter.com

costumeexpress.com
buycostumes.com
spirithalloween.com
halloweensuperstore.us
rickyshalloween.com
costumediscounters.com
halloweencostumes.net
etsy.com

How to make your own

Making your own costumes is also a lot of fun but it will take some time and some skill. You should know how to sew and how to design the type of costume you want to wear as well. There are tons of places you can find patterns and advice online as well. You can turn making your own costume into a group project with your friends and family. Be sure to prep for your costume at least 2 months in advance because mistakes might happen and you might need to fix issues if you aren't a professional sewer. Here are some places you can buy sewing patterns for costumes.

mccallpattern.mccall.com
etsy.com
simplicity.com

Tips and Conclusion

Now that we are so close to the end of the book, it's time to go over some general tips. These tips can help you in every element of your Halloween party planning because they are almost like short cuts to an easier party. Just remember to keep things simple and you will be perfect.

Use mind maps to organize ideas and to do list for speed

Mind maps are a ton of fun and because they are so easy to use – you can place them into your notebook as a way to organize the ideas you might have. You can also use them to chart your to do list. It's much easier than a normal list because it's much easier to read in a hurry. You can also build mind maps online if you'd like to but it's recommended that you keep all your mind maps in one location.

Turn it into a potluck

Potlucks mean that you don't have to cook as much food as you normally have to. If you plan on turning your Halloween party into a potluck, you need to write that note in your invitation so that your guests will know in advance. Also, when your guest start RSVPing you need to remind them again that it's a potluck and ask them to bring something.

Set a theme for the actual party

Setting a theme for your food or your decoration is also fun but to add even more fun you can set a theme to your actual party. This could be as simple as asking everyone to wear something black or as themed as asking people to only come with handmade costumes.

Use wedding invitations with orange envelopes and scrap booking stickers

This is a fun way to save some money and still provide your guest will really nice invitations. You can take white wedding invitations and use them with orange envelopes. You can find a large selection of colored envelopes at most craft stores then you can go to other stores to find silly and spooky scrap booking stickers. This is a great craft that children can help with.

Have your invitations drawn from Fiverr.com

Fiverr.com is a website where everything is \$5. There are tons of artist on there and they are happy to make just about any kind of picture you can image. Simply go online and do a search , buy one of the “gigs” and request your piece of art. Make sure that before you contact an artist that you know just what kind of picture you are looking for . If you have examples then that would be perfect as well.

Give your guest favors to play with while partying

These favors don't have to be expensive, instead you can go cheap and still provide your guest with something fun to play with. For example, let's say your party is very dark, providing glow sticks to each guest as they walk in will help them see everything and enjoy the fun as well. Other favors include stickers for children and small themed toys. Your favors should not be candy.

Add food coloring and sugar to food to add spooky colors

Sometimes you want to make a basic dish that you know your family will love but you don't want it to look so normal and not Halloween themed. So here's how to add that spooky color to your food. You mix sugar with food coloring then stir it into your food. The reason you have to add sugar to the food coloring directly is because food coloring normally has a very bad flavor, you are able to tone down

that gross flavor by adding something sweet too it. Make sure you add more sugar then food coloring to keep the flavors mellow as well. You'd be shocked to know that even with the sugar – normally the recipe will taste the same. If you aren't a fan of sugar, any white item will work will. Make sure the flavor is light and easy to dissolve within your recipe.

Have fun at your party

One thing that so many people forget about hosting a party is that it can be stressful. Because of all the elements within your Halloween party – it's normally super stressful. The best way to remove that stress is to remember it's a party. Don't consider the party work even though it might seem like that for awhile. Be sure to add some fun and relaxation to your party. You shouldn't be running around doing things during the whole party instead have fun , sit down and chat with your guest and spend time even playing some great games.

Conclusion

Now we have gotten to the very end of our book. As you finish this book --- I hope that the advice within this book will allow you to host an amazing Halloween party that people will talk about months after it's over. Remember to plan ahead of time, to ask for help when needed and to research how to decorate your home to make it the best Halloween party. No matter what kind of guests you decide to invite to your party – make it something they will love. You don't have to impress them with expensive items, instead keep your budget tight and just let them see how much fun your party really is.

