

HALLOWEEN

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH



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Let's cultivate relationships with the unbelieving as part of an ongoing process in which we plainly identify with Jesus, get to know them well, and personally speak the good news of our Savior into their lives!

How To Be Successful.

Pray. Prior to Halloween night, carve out some intentional time to start praying as a family for this outreach. Pray for new relationships to be developed in your neighborhood, and for existing ones to be deepened. God is already at work in the lives of your neighbors, so join Him in it!

Listen. In the midst of whatever your plans for Halloween are, make space to listen to the Spirit of God as he guides you.

Follow-Up. This outreach event is just the beginning! Follow-up with your neighbors to continue the relationship.

5 Thou Shalt Nots.

1. Thou shalt not turn off your lights protesting Halloween, thereby increasing the “darkness”.
2. Thou shalt not hand out Bible Tracts instead of candy, further alienating you from those in your neighborhood.
3. Thou shalt not provide alternative candy options, the worst of these are toothbrushes, canned food, and leftover Valentines Day candy.
4. Thou shalt not lurk in the darkness awaiting opportunities to terrify man, woman, and child.
5. Thou shalt not prank thy neighbor.





THE TABLE

This idea centers around a simple hospitality table. Put it in your yard or driveway. If the weather turns sour, be prepared to move it just inside your garage!

Provide Drinks.

Cokes, water, apple cider, hot chocolate, and coffee will be welcomed by all the kids and adults. Don't forget the trash can!

The Florida Upgrade.

Add a 10'x10' popup shelter to provide people a dry place to find refuge. Bonus points if it has a wall or two to block some wind.

Movie Theater.

Use a projector to show a kid friendly Halloween movie. A white bed sheet hung over your garage door makes the perfect screen. Don't have a projector? Bravely move your flat screen to your front window or into your garage!

Movie recommendations:

- It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.
- Monsters, Inc.
- Wallace & Gromit: Curse of the Were-Rabbit
- Nightmare Before Christmas

Make Your Own Cookie.

Let kids decorate their own cookie. Store bought sugar cookies might be less suspicious. Have the decorations be easy and quick to use.





CUL-DE-SAC CARNIVAL

Make a name for your neighborhood by letting kids win their candy with some simple carnival style games. Whether you start small, or bring the circus, this is a great way to work together with your neighbors.

Plan the Games.

Every house picks a simple game, be creative to make it work for 6 and 16 year olds. Pinterest is your best friend for more ideas:

- Pumpkin Bowling
- Bean Bag Toss
- Fishing for Candy
- Ping Pong Ball Toss into a Pumpkin
- Tic-Tac-Toe
- Ladder Ball
- Guess How Much Candy
- Yard Spiderweb Maze

Have a Craft Station.

Put together some quick and simple craft kits that kids can make on the spot. Lollipop + Pipe cleaners = Tasty Spiders.

Face Painting.

Have a simple face painting booth. Pickup some Halloween stencils to streamline the process.

Halloween Photo Booth.

Just about everyone will have their cell phone with them to take pictures. Have fun making a Halloween “Stand-In” (board with cut-outs for your face). Bonus points if you have some extra lights to make the pictures turn out better!

Light Up The Night.

Illuminate your carnival to make it inviting and safe. Use shop lights or go all out and rent a light tower!



DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS

Already have some specific neighbors that you're trying to develop relationships with? Use these ideas to help that process.

Monstrous Minivan.

Offer to double up with a family to drive around while Trick-or-Treat'ing. Make sure you have some fun Halloween music! A cooler with drinks and non-candy food might help fight a sugar overdose.

Dinner or Cookout.

Invite some neighbors over for a pre-Trick-or-Treat dinner, or put together a simple neighborhood cookout (this would be perfect right before the Cul-De-Sac Carnival).

Pumpkin Carving Party.

Whether it's on Halloween, or the weekend before, it's always fun to learn new ways to carve pumpkins. Invite a family over, or setup tables in your front yard for all the neighborhood kids.

Gift Bags.

Put together a simple gift bag for the children in your neighborhood. Glow sticks, inexpensive flashlight, stickers, and whatever else the dollar store has to offer.



QUICK AND EASY

Short on time or want to start small? These ideas may be quick and easy, but you'll still build community with your neighbors!

Big Candy.

EVERYONE remembers the house that hands out full-size candy bars. Don't take out a loan, but do something creative with your candy choice.

Glow Sticks.

Dollar stores have an incredible assortment of glow sticks, pick up several 10-for-\$1 packs.

Get Your Costume On.

Who says kids should have all the fun? Wear something ridiculous for the sake of the Kingdom.

Pick One Carnival Game.

Steal an idea from the Cul-De-Sac Carnival and let kids win their candy.

Lights On, Candy Out.

Have plans on Halloween Night? Leave your porch lights on, and a bucket of candy. Most people will respect the "honor system" and take just a small handful. Have a neighbor refill it for you once or twice.

Sit and Stay.

Get comfortable outside instead of hiding indoors. It's more welcoming, and you'll foster better conversations.





BEFORE AND AFTER

Some people put a lot of time into setting up, while others use their time for pranking. Help your neighborhood by giving them your time!

Help Setup/Takedown.

Have a neighbor who starts decorating for Halloween in September? Offer to help setup and/or takedown. Bring your ladder and chainsaw.

Cleanup the Pranks.

Pranks are inevitable for someone. And no one likes to fish toilet paper out of their trees on a frosty morning, or pull 1000 forks from their yard. Volunteer to help! The family member with the most trash wins!

Plan for Next Year.

Not enough time this year to get something organized? Bring up some ideas with neighbors while Halloween is still fresh on their minds.

Supersize Your Table.

Have one house that's centrally located handle the hospitality table for the carnival.

Share a Meal.

Make it a goal to invite at least one family in the neighborhood over for dinner after Halloween. What was everyone's favorite costume? Who got the best candy?