

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE

INSTANT MEETING
AGES: 12-17

Goal: A fun and festive way for your group to celebrate the spooky season. If you would like to make it a bridging activity, use the craft and snack ideas to create a Halloween Haunted House with other Guide groups.

Program Areas Covered:
Exploring a Theme
Explore Your Creativity / Leadership

Preparation Time:
Halloween Party: 1 meeting.
Halloween Haunted House
if bridging event: 1-2 meetings.

OPENING

- Lead the Opening at your usual meeting place.
- Remind your group that Halloween is coming up and that they're never too old to get into the spooky spirit. Ask them what some of their favourite parts of Halloween are. Then, tell them that they will be able to incorporate some of them in a fun and freaky Halloween Party! They can use some of the craft and snack ideas provided in this Instant Meeting, but they are encouraged to try and come up with their own creative ideas as well.
- Tell your group that they have the option of helping the younger Guide levels to create a Halloween Haunted House for their friends and families to enjoy. Let them know that creating the Halloween Haunted House will require teamwork and leadership. They will have to offer the younger girls help and guidance so that the haunted house will be a truly terrifying holiday experience. Let them know that they will also get to do a few fun activities of their own!

DIABOLICAL DECORATIONS

Here are some ideas for some fun and easy decorations that will turn your space into a funky house of horrors. These decorations will look their spookiest if the lights in the room are dimmed. Covering the windows with black plastic garbage bags will effectively block out any sunlight. You can also play some creepy music or Halloween tracks in the background to create atmosphere.

CHAIN OF BATS

Materials

- 12" x 18" black piece of paper
- Scissors

1 Cut a 12 inch wide by 18 inch long black piece of construction paper into three 4 inch by 18 inch pieces. Then, measure and mark 4 inches from one of the sides. Measure it two more times and fold the paper on the marks like an accordion.

2 A printable bat template can be found on page 9. Draw the shape of a bat onto the folded paper, making sure that the tips of its wings touch the sides of the paper. Cut out the shape of the bat.

3 When you unfold the paper, there should be three bats flying wing to wing! To make longer chains, simply make more sets of three bats and tape their wings together!

GLOWING GHOSTS

Materials:

- Green 8 hour glow sticks
- White balloons
- Black markers

1 Snap a green eight hour glow stick so that it glows. Insert the glow stick into a white balloon.

2 Inflate the balloon and use a black marker to draw on a scary (or funny!) ghost face. These glowing ghouls will add an eerie glow to your haunted house.

Tip!

Two ghost face templates can be found on page 10, or create your own ghostly face!

SPOOKY SHEETS

Materials:

- Old white sheets
- Chairs and tables

1 Have the kids bring old white sheets from home.

2 Drape them over the chairs and tables. Your space will immediately look creepier as you create the look of an abandoned room.

Helping Hands!

If your group is doing the Halloween Haunted House bridging activity with a younger group, they will be responsible for helping the younger kids assemble and put up the decorations.

SHIFTY SHADOW

Materials:

- A lamp
- A big sheet of white paper
- A big sheet of black construction paper
- Scissors
- A pencil
- Tape

1 Have the kids pair up. Tape a large sheet of paper to a wall. Then, shine a light at the paper wall.

2 Have someone stand in front of the light and hold a spooky pose so that their shadow is projected onto the sheet of paper. Their partner will then trace the silhouette. The kids then cut out the shape of the silhouette so that they have a spooky template.

3 Then, the kids will trace the silhouette onto a big sheet of black construction paper and cut that out to create a shifty shadow. Tape the shadows to the walls and doors and there you have it: a decoration that will creep up on guests!

STICKY SPIDERS

Materials:

- Small suction cup
- 4 chenille bump pipe cleaners
- Pom-pom
- Googly eyes
- Glue

1 Wrap four chenille bump pipe cleaners around a small suction cup to create the legs.

2 Then, glue a pom-pom of the same colour as the legs to the top of the suction cup to create the body.

3 Glue some googly eyes to the pom-pom to create some wacky eyes for the spiders. These creepy crawlers will be able to stick to windows and other surfaces to startle visitors!

SCARY SPIDER WEBS

Materials:

- Cheesecloth
- Scissors
- Pushpins or tape

1 Take a roll of cheesecloth and measure it the length of where you want it to hang. Cut the cheesecloth the width of the space. Then, cut vertical lines of varying lengths in the cheesecloth.

2 Have the kids cut and tear holes in each strip to make them look tattered.

3 Pin the scary spider webs from the ceiling and across doorways using pushpins or tape. Your space will look all the more cryptic with scary webs hanging from the ceiling.

Tip!

If you rub the cheesecloth between your hands, it will make it look frayed and even spookier.

JACK-O'-LANTERNS

Materials:

- Pumpkins
- Newspaper
- Pumpkin carving tools
- Spoon or scoop
- Toothpicks
- Black markers
- Candles

1 The group can work in groups or individually. Have them lay out newspaper across their workspace to keep the surface clean. Have the girls take their pumpkin and make the first incision by cutting a hole around the stem that is big enough for them to fit a hand through.

4 Next comes the tricky part. Using a sharp knife, have the group carve out their Jack-O'-Lantern designs. Have toothpicks handy in case they need to pin any loose pumpkin pieces. Compost the extra pumpkin pieces.

2 The group now has access to the pumpkin guts. Using a spoon, have them scoop out the pumpkin seeds and pulp into a bowl. This part of the process is a bit messy!

5 When the group is done carving out their designs, they can wipe off remaining black marker to make their Jack-O'-Lanterns look neater.

3 Once the pumpkins have been hollowed, they can begin the fun part. Using a black marker, have them draw a funny or spooky design onto the face of the pumpkin. They can make it as interesting as they want, but the key is to make sure that the design is something they will be able to carve out easily.

6 Now it's time to bring their Jack-O'-Lanterns to life! Have them light a candle and place it in their Jack-O'-Lanterns and top it off by putting the stem lid back on the pumpkin. Turn out the lights and look how the room glows with the spirit of Stingy Jack!

DID YOU KNOW?

THE MYTH OF STINGY JACK

The carving of Jack-O'-Lanterns originated from an old Irish myth about a man named Stingy Jack. As the story goes, Stingy Jack tricked the Devil into turning himself into a coin so that Stingy Jack could buy a drink. Stingy Jack, however, kept the drink for himself. A year later, Stingy Jack tricked the Devil into climbing a tree for him to pick some fruit, but he trapped the Devil in the tree instead. When Stingy Jack died, God did not want to let such a shifty character into Heaven; the Devil, angry at Stingy Jack for tricking him twice, did not want to let him into Hell. So Stingy Jack was sent into the dark night with nothing but a burning chunk of coal to light his way. He put the coal into a hollowed out turnip and has been using it to light his way as he wanders the world to this day.

DISSECTION STATION

Gross out party guests with these gruesome illusions.

BOWL OF EYEBALLS

Materials:

- A bag of big grapes
- A fruit peeler
- A bowl
- Paint or construction paper
- A cardboard box
- Markers
- Glue

1 Take a bag of big grapes and peel them. Place them into a bowl.

2 To create an air of mystery, take a cardboard box and cut a hole in one of the sides big enough for people to fit a hand through. Place the bowl of grapes inside the box.

3 Invite your guests to stick their hands through the hole in the box and feel the squishy insides. Tell them that they're the eyeballs of past guests.

Tip!

You can decorate the cardboard boxes with markers, paint, or construction paper to make it look spooky and enticing.

BRAINS IN A BOWL

Materials:

- Cooked spaghetti
- A bowl
- Paint or construction paper
- A cardboard box
- Markers
- Glue

1 Put cooked spaghetti into a bowl and put it in a fridge to cool.

2 To create an air of mystery, take a cardboard box and cut a hole in one of the sides big enough for people to fit a hand through. Put the cold spaghetti in the cardboard box.

3 Invite your guests to stick their hands through the hole in the box and feel the cold, slimy contents. Tell them that they're the brains of past guests.

Waste Not, Want Not!

Be sure to compost the pumpkin pulp when the group is done making their Jack-O'-Lanterns. But before you do, why not fish out the pumpkin seeds and make them into a healthy snack? Find a recipe on page 6!

SPOOKY SNACKS

Here are some snacks that are as tasty as they are spooky!

ROASTED PUMPKIN SEEDS

Ingredients:

- Leftover pumpkin seeds
- Salt (or other spices)
- A baking sheet

1 Collect the pumpkin seeds and rinse them in cold water. Be sure to remove all the pulp and gooey bits.

2 Spread the seeds out on a baking sheet and sprinkle them with salt. If you want to spice it up, you could also sprinkle your seeds with garlic powder, onion powder, or cayenne pepper.

3 Bake the seeds in the oven at about 325 degrees F for about 25 minutes. You'll know they're done when they're nice and toasted. And there you have it: healthy and snackable roasted pumpkin seeds!

APPLE BITES

Materials:

- Apples
- Almond slivers
- A knife

1 Cut apples into quarters and core them.

2 Flip the slices over and cut a wedge from the skin side of each slice so that it looks like an open mouth.

3 Then, take some almond slivers and stick them into the open mouth so that they look like teeth. Repeat until you have a tray of healthy little monster mouths smiling up at you.

Helping Hands!

If your group is doing the Halloween Haunted House activity with a younger group, they will be responsible for handling the knives.

BLOODY BREW

Materials:

- Maraschino cherries
- Cranberry raspberry juice
- Ice cube tray
- Orange juice
- Ginger ale
- Corn syrup
- Red food colouring
- Plastic cups

1 Take an ice cube tray and put a maraschino cherry in each section. Then, fill the sections up with cranberry raspberry juice, and put the ice cube tray into the freezer to become bloody red ice cubes.

2 Take a pitcher and fill two thirds of it with orange juice and one third with ginger ale to create a nice fizzy punch.

3 Now it's time to make the bloody garnish. Mix red food colouring with corn syrup.

4 To serve your Bloody Brew, dip the rims of your cups in the red corn syrup, letting it drip down the sides to make it look like the blood is running.

5 Fill the cups with the punch and drop two bloody red ice cubes into each cup. The kids will love this terrifyingly refreshing party drink!

GRAVESTONE LOLLIPOPS

Materials:

- White or grey paper
- Pencil crayons/markers
- Black construction paper
- Glue
- Assorted lollipops

1 Print out or draw gravestone designs. You will need two for each lollipop. Glue the gravestone designs to pieces of black construction paper and cut the construction paper around the gravestone designs, leaving a little black border.

2 Glue the backs of two of the gravestones to one another, making sure to only glue along the borders so that the gravestones become pockets.

3 Slide the lollipops into the gravestone pockets and stand them up in some Styrofoam or floral foam to create a graveyard full of sweet surprises!

SNACK-O'- LANTERN

Materials:

- Navel oranges
- Fruit salad (fresh or canned)
- Plastic spoons
- A knife

1 Slice off the top of a navel orange and hollow it out. Put the orange segments aside. Take a knife and carve a jack-o'-lantern face into orange peel so that the peels look like mini pumpkins. Cut a slit into the lid of the peel in order to fit the handle of a plastic spoon through it.

2 Then, take the orange segments and mix them in with a fruit salad mixture of your choice. Fill the jack-o'-lantern peels with your fruit salad concoction and place the lid and spoon on top. These sweet little snack-o'-lanterns will smile invitingly as guests.

HELPING THE LITTLE MONSTERS

If your group decides to make this a bridging activity, they will get the chance to help the younger Sparks, Brownies, and Guides decorate the Halloween Haunted House. Pathfinders and Rangers will likely be much taller than little Sparks and Brownies, so have your group help them reach to put up their decorations. Have your group take on leadership roles by offering help and answering any questions the younger girls may have. After all, the younger kids will definitely look up to them!

SPREADING THE SPOOKY SPIRIT

If you decide to hold your party or Halloween Haunted House on the night of Halloween, why not spread the spooky spirit? Any interested Pathfinders can dress up in spooky or funny costumes and hand out candy to the neighbourhood kids who drop by. They can set up a booth and decorate it however they like (inviting or frightening)!

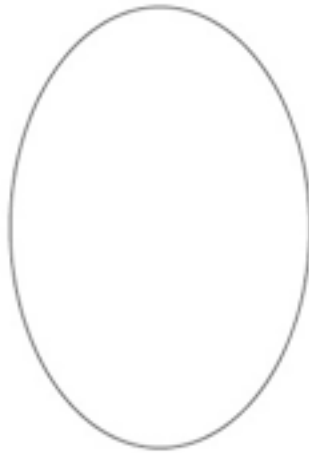
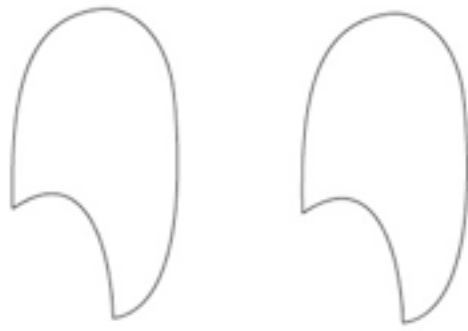
CLOSING

- Congratulate the girls on their creativity and teamwork.
- If they did the Halloween Haunted House bridging activity, congratulate them on their leadership as well! When the preparations are complete, they can enjoy the party with the younger groups and any friends or family they invite.
- Hand out little bags of candy as party favours.

**CHAIN
OF BATS
TEMPLATE**



**GLOWING
GHOSTS
TEMPLATE**



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