



29 Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207
518-434-183
www.ptny.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Frances Gotcsik

(518) 434-1583/fgotcsik@ptny.org

NEW YORK'S PARKS & TRAILS OFFER HALLOWEEN MAGIC

ALBANY, N.Y. – Just in time for the Halloween season, Parks & Trails New York announces its list of haunting experiences in parks and on trails across the state, from Long Island to Fort Niagara. Whether your preferences run to ghostly tales or the flickering light of hundreds of carved pumpkins, these events offer new and magical perspectives on public parks and trails, often at night and outdoors amidst the remaining autumn foliage. For each, contact information for further details is provided

“Most people think of our parks and trails as places for summer fun, yet they also offer interesting ways to combine outings with observing special days such as Halloween at all times of the year. Try something different this month, get better acquainted with a nearby (or more distant) park or trail. You can also help the local economy by stopping for a bite to eat or visiting the many nearby unique shops,” notes Robin Dropkin, Parks & Trails New York Executive Director. “Most of these events are suitable for a range of ages and abilities,” she added.

Here is the list of Halloween events at parks and trails:

1. **Pumpkin Festival in Central Park**, New York City. Oct. 30, noon to 5:00 p.m.
Join NYC Parks and HUB TV to celebrate the fall harvest season. Includes a haunted house, scarecrow competition, hay rides, and entertainment. Free. For this and other NYC events: www.nycgovparks.org/events/halloween

2. **Nature's Halloween Trail**, Shelter Island, Long Island. Oct. 30, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Who'll be in the woods of the Mashomack Preserve (The Nature Conservancy) this year? Costumed characters have fun facts to share on this year's theme of night creatures & scary natural phenomena. Bring a flashlight. Refreshments. Pre-registration required at 631-749-1001.
3. **The Haunted Trail**, Rockland Lake State Park Nature Center, Valley Cottage. Oct. 30 & 31, noon to 5:00 p.m.
Presented by Friends of Rockland Lake & Hook Mountain. Activities: costume parades, bat programs, storytelling, and more. \$8, \$7 Friends members, under 3 free.
www.FriendsofRocklandLakeandHookMt.org
4. **Legends by Candlelight Ghost Tours**, Clermont State Historic Park, Germantown. Oct. 22, 23, 29 & 30, 6:00 p.m.
Haunted evening tours of Clermont's 250-year-old mansion & grounds from 7 to 9:30 on the half hour. Ghosts of the site's past visit and tell their stories. Reserve a tour at 518-537-4240.
5. **Bats & Bugs & Boos**, Hudson Crossing Park, Schuylerville. Oct. 23, 4 to 6 p.m.
Carve a pumpkin for the Jack-O-Lantern Walk (costumes encouraged), learn about bats from a bat rehabilitator, and listen to a story with clues to how bugs survive winter. BYO pumpkin and carving tools (or borrow them for a small fee). All ages welcome; free. 518-859-1462
6. **Fall Lights on the Towpath Trail**, Bouckville. Oct 17-Nov. 1, dusk to 11 p.m., dawn to 8 a.m.
Walk the Chenango Canal Towpath Trail and enjoy autumn light displays along the way. Presented by the Chenango Canal Association with Colgate University. Free.
towpath@twcny.rr.com; 315-893-7910.
7. **Halloween Hikes**, Waterman Environmental Education Center, Apalachin, Oct. 30, 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Hike on candlelit trails and meet costumed interpreters dressed as forest creatures, such as a bear, deer and an opossum. Who knows what else lingers in the woods until you come and see for yourself! Hikes every 10 min. Also bonfire, music, storytelling, more. Costumes encouraged. \$8 (\$6 for members), under 3 free. www.watermancenter.org; 607-625-2221.
8. **Jack-O-Lantern Trail**, Victor. Oct. 23, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Hike on the Trolley Trail and enjoy hundreds of carved and lit jack-o-lanterns. Paved ½ mile trail is great for strollers and wheelchairs. Refreshments; no pets. \$3 adults, \$1 under 15. Information: 585-234-8226.

9. **The Haunted Fortress**, Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site, Youngstown. Oct. 23.
Experience the dark side of Fort Niagara as ghosts and ghouls from the past walk again among the historic buildings. Tickets (\$12) by pre-sale only at 716-745-7611. Not recommended for children under 8.

Parks & Trails New York is the only statewide non-profit organization with 25 years experience promoting the development of a statewide network of parks, trails and open spaces for all to use and enjoy. Find out more about Parks & Trails New York by visiting www.ptny.org, [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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