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Balboa Park Halloween Family Day Marks 10 Years of Offering San Diego Families a Day Full of Spooky Good Fun

Halloween Family Day: October 27, 11am–4pm

SAN DIEGO — 10/5/2018 — The region’s largest free Halloween carnival celebrates its 10th year of providing families a fun, safe, and culturally inspired kickoff to their Halloween activities. The Balboa Park Halloween Family Day on October 27, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., features dozens of free craft projects for kids, Day of the Dead-themed displays and activities, costume contests and parades, carnival games with prizes, live entertainment, and food trucks. Participating museums also offer free admission to children 12 and under with paying adult.



More than two dozen participating museums, cultural attractions, and community partners will present free hands-on activities for kids in the Plaza de Panama and El Prado walkway, while select museums offer additional Halloween-themed activities inside their buildings.

Among the day’s highlights are a free performance by the San Diego Children’s Choir (all in costume); Day of the Dead altar, face-painting, and crafts presented by the Mexican Consulate; mini-carnival games for prizes courtesy of the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department; a doggie costume contest in the Spanish Village Art Center; a rooftop pumpkin drop experiment at the San Diego Air & Space Museum; “Thriller” flash mob dance in the Plaza de Panama; and the Fab Trailers photo booth.

For a complete listing of all scheduled activities, visit <http://www.balboaparkconservancy.org/family-day/>. Adults can receive best-value museum admission when purchasing the Balboa Park Explorer One-Day, Multi-Day, or Annual Pass.

Visitors arriving by car should park in the [Inspiration Point parking lot](#) at the corner of Park Blvd. and President’s Way and ride the free tram, which runs 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., into the park. Families can also take advantage of MTS Family Weekends, which allows two children 12 and under per each paying adult to ride the bus and trolley for free on Saturdays and Sundays. To plan your trip, visit sdmts.com.

SPECIAL FAMILY DAY ACTIVITIES AND OFFERS

Plaza de Panama Entertainment Schedule:

11am–11:45am: Danza Azteca (Mexican Consulate)

12pm–12:40pm: “Thriller” Flash Mob Dance (San Diego Civic Dance Arts)

1pm, 1:40pm, 2:40pm, 3:20pm: Flavor Company Dance Entertainment (20-minute Halloween-themed performances)

2pm–2:15pm, 3pm–3:15pm: San Diego Children’s Choir performing on The San Diego Museum of Art’s steps

Balboa Park Visitors Center: Free gift to kids in costume who are accompanied by an adult (while supplies last). Enter a drawing to win:

- Old Town Trolley/Seal Tour tickets
- *Live in Concert* CD and 4 free tickets to a San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory concert in 2018–19
- San Diego Junior Theatre Family 4-Pack of tickets to a 2019 show
- 4 tickets to San Diego Civic Youth Ballet’s *The Nutcracker*

Fleet Science Center: Utilize string, wood, and other tools and fun materials to create your own Halloween-themed string art—scary or not! Price per project is \$5. All ages are welcome, 11:30am–3:30pm in Studio X. Two kids, 12 and under, receive free admission per paid adult for regular exhibit galleries only. *MythBusters* exhibition can be added on for \$5 per adult or kid, and an IMAX film can be added on for \$9.95 per adult or kid.

Friends of Balboa Park — Balboa Park Carousel: Free carousel rides for children 12 and under who are in full costume. The carousel will be open from 11am to 5:30pm.

House of Pacific Relations International Cottages: Trick-or-treating at International Cottages from noon to 5pm. Learn how different cultures celebrate Halloween!

Metropolitan Transit System (MTS): Two kids (12 & under) ride free with each paying adult on Saturday and Sunday.

San Diego Air & Space Museum: Create spider parachutes out of paper and participate in and witness a rooftop pumpkin drop experiment at 2:30pm.

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: Halloween-themed activities for kids inside the museum.

San Diego Museum of Man: Enjoy spooky-themed programs throughout the day, including listening to animal-themed stories, creating your own animal masks, and viewing rarely-seen masks from the museum’s Cultural Resources.

San Diego Natural History Museum: Celebrate bats and other creatures that lurk in the night at The Nat. Meet some crepuscular critters and make a bat craft. Children 12 and under receive free general admission* with a paid adult. To redeem this offer, download the coupon from the San Diego Museum Council and present in person at the admissions desk. *Free general admission does not include 3D films. Coupon must be presented at time of visit.

San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory: Free, open orchestra rehearsals (classical melodies) on the second floor of the Casa del Prado building, rooms 207 & 205, 8:30am–7:15pm.

San Diego Zoo: Free admission to all children through 11 years of age, regardless of adult ticket purchase. Part of “Kids Free Month” (October) promotion.

Spanish Village Art Center: Dress up your pup and take part in the annual Doggie Costume Contest (register by 12:45pm), or stop by to enjoy the show at 1pm; decorate your own trick-or-treat bag (all day) and then go on a studio trick-or-treating run (with accompanying adult).

The San Diego Museum of Art: “Masks, Skulls, and Costumes” Search and Find handout to guide families on a hunt for artworks in the galleries that feature masks, skulls, and costumes. 17 and under FREE.

UNA International Gift Shop: Free Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF box to take along while trick-or-treating to benefit children around the world who need clean water, food, school supplies, etc.; free UN pen and free UN mug on request (while supplies last).

Activities along the Prado and in the Plaza de Panama

Fab Trailers Photo Booth: Capture the moment with a fun photo of friends and family in their Halloween costumes to share.

Flavor Company Dance Entertainment: Do the Monster Mash and dance to all your other favorite Halloween tunes with the Flavor Company Dance Entertainment. Energetic and interactive performances at 1pm–1:20pm, 1:40pm–2pm, 2:40pm–3pm, and 3:20pm–3:40pm.

Fleet Science Center: Enjoy Halloween-themed activities for kids.

Food Trucks (Village Place): Enjoy special selections from 15 popular local food trucks, including Tacos la Mezcla, Sicilian Breeze, Super Q, Yo Yo Bento, and many more.

FROM: Craft thoughtful and creative postcards for loved ones using recycled materials from the back of a 40-year-old bright green postal Jeep named Al Green.

Health Net: Take part in activities and games for kids and giveaways for the whole family, and learn how individuals and families can qualify for low-cost or no-cost health insurance.

House of Pacific Relations International Cottages: Meet the HPR Queens attired in their traditional costumes and learn about HPR, the national cultures it represents, youth programs, and year-round events.

Japanese Friendship Garden: Make *chochin-obake* (haunted Japanese lanterns) out of toilet paper rolls, strips of toilet paper, and googly eyes!

Mexican Consulate: Visit the special Day of the Dead altar and have your kid's face painted with colorful Day of the Dead-themed designs and dress up a Catrina doll.

Metropolitan Transit System (MTS): Pick up punch-out cardboard *Rapid* and Trolley banks, coloring books, and other fun items for kids, in addition to MTS *Rapid*, Bus, and Trolley route and schedule information. Plus, sign up to be a Rider Insider for a chance to win annual San Diego Zoo passes for the family (two adults and two children)!

Museum of Photographic Arts: Stop by MOPA's photo booth to create spooky images with your family using otherworldly photographic techniques!

San Diego Automotive Museum: Make your own Day of the Dead mask.

San Diego Carnivorous Plant Society: See first-hand and learn about nature's creepy plants that have teeth and fangs to eat things! Free candy and plants for sale.

San Diego Children's Choir: Hear the Harry Potter song and other Halloween-themed favorites sung by talented youngsters costumed for the occasion on the steps of the San Diego Museum of Art at 2:00–2:15pm and 3:00–3:15pm.

San Diego Civic Dance Arts: At 12:00-12:40pm, witness dance hocus pocus, learn the "Thriller" moves, and join Civic Dance Arts dancers in bringing the Plaza de Panama to ghoulish life with a "Thriller" flash mob, featuring a Viva Calaca dance intro.

San Diego Civic Youth Ballet: Create your own crown or tiara and have your photo taken with costumed ballet dancers while learning about SDCYB's upcoming performances and programs for kids.

San Diego Junior Theatre: Grab some free candy (while supplies last) and learn about upcoming performances and how to become involved in San Diego Junior Theatre.

San Diego Model Railroad Museum: Enjoy Halloween-themed activities for kids.

San Diego Natural History Museum: Celebrate both Halloween and Day of the Dead with a bat-making craft and a skull mask-making activity to take home.

San Diego Park and Recreation (Plaza de Panama): Test your skills at various mini-carnival games to win prizes (11am-3pm). Halloween costume contests in multiple age categories from 11:30am to 1pm; prizes for first, second, and third place. A special all-ages homemade contest category will be judged at 1:30pm.

Save Starlight: Learn the latest about the Save Starlight campaign to restore, revive, and revitalize Starlight Bowl; coloring sheets for kids.

SoccerCity/Yes on E Campaign: Pick up t-shirts and swag and enter a raffle to win a prize from two former MLS soccer players.

Spanish Village Art Center: Pick up a free bag to take back to Spanish Village to decorate for trick-or-treating at participating Spanish Village studios.

Timken Museum of Art: Create your very own ghost lollipop as part of a special art-making activity.

Worldview Project: Free exotic snacks from faraway places (while they last), culture quiz to see how much you know about world cultures; and a “Been There, Want to Go There Next” activity for the whole family.

XEWT Channel 12: Join XEWT TV for a fun Day of the Dead crafting experience.

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