



HALLOWEEN in SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 2025

*Before visiting,
please verify dates, times and locations!*

APTOS

Seacliff Inn Howl-Oween Pet Costume Parade & Contest

Thursday, October 29, 4:30pm-6:30pm. Dress up your furry friends and join the spook-tacular Howl-oween Pet Costume Parade and Contest at Seacliff Inn! 7500 Old Dominion Ct., Aptos.

<https://happeningnext.com/event/howl-oween-pet-costume-parade-and-contest-eid1ef0178e1f9r>

Art Factory Studios Parents Night Out:

Pumpkins & Pizza, Friday, October 30, 5:30– 7:30. A night out for you, an evening of Halloween fun for the kids! 7960 Soquel Dr, Aptos. <https://www.artfactorystudios.com>

Aptos Village Halloween Celebration

Saturday, October 31, 1pm–3pm, Aptos Village Green, 151 Aptos Village Way, Aptos.

<https://www.aptoschamber.com/events-2>

Aegis Living in Aptos Trick or Treat

October 3, 5pm–8pm, at Aegis Living in Aptos. Bring your little ones by the senior center for trick or treat.

We'll have candy! The seniors really love seeing the kids dressed up in costumes. It brings them so much joy!

125 Heather Ter., Aptos. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/santacruzmmas/permalink/2905827289605130/>

*For fun all year round,
register for our free, weekly newsletter
full of family-friendly events
and parenting resources!
<https://conta.cc/3wrLPKr>*





BOULDER CREEK

SPOOKtacular First Friday Boulder Creek

Friday, October 2, 5pm–8pm. Spooktacular is coming back to First Friday Boulder Creek! Costumes not required but there will be a contest for various age groups! Kids, Teens, Adults, & Groups.

<https://www.firstfridaybouldercreek.org>

Boulder Creek Trick or Treat Street

October 31, 5pm–7pm. Main St, Boulder Creek. (Happens every year!)

CAPITOLA

Capitola Village Halloween Parade

Sunday, October 25, 2pm–3pm. Calling all ghosts, goblins, boys and ghouls ... Join us for the annual Capitola Village Halloween Parade! Line up at 1:30pm, Lower Beach & Village Parking Lot 2.

<https://business.capitolachamber.com/event-calendar-list/Details/capitola-village-halloween-parade-1902920>

ZOOM HONK SMASH: Touch-A-Truck: The Santa Cruz Children's Museum of Discovery

October 3, 10:30am–3:00pm. Climb aboard the action! Free Admission.

Capitola Mall Parking Lot, 1855 41st Ave., Store C-10, Capitola. <https://www.sccmod.org/zhs>

Woodworm Party Store

The employees are building a Haunted Hallway! Stop by to see it! Also, we are getting new Halloween costumes and accessories every day! Check website for more coming up! 827 Bay Ave., Capitola

<https://www.facebook.com/woodwormpartystore> and <https://www.woodwormpartystore.com/>



Go directly to our **CALENDAR**
for family-friendly events:
<https://santacruzparent.com/events/>





FELTON

Thomas and Percy Halloween Party at Roaring Camp

Fall into Fun with Thomas & Friends! Saturdays and Sundays, every weekend in October. See Website for more info & tickets! 5401 Graham Hill Road. <https://thomastrainride.com/thomas-and-percys-halloween-party.php>

Trick or Treat Downtown Felton

Saturday, October 31, 5pm–7pm. Join us for our annual town trick or treat event in downtown Felton! Businesses will be hosting open doors and handing out candy to our trick or treaters of all ages starting at 5pm. (Happens every year!)

SANTA CRUZ

Thriller Dance Class

Free & Drop-in. Learn the Thriller dance, and perform at the Halloween Mask Making Festival on October 30!

Class schedule ongoing: Saturdays, October 3 and October 10, 10am–12pm.

London Nelson Community Center, 301 Center Street, Santa Cruz.

<https://www.santacruzca.gov/Government/City-Departments/Parks-Recreation/Thriller-Dance-Classes-2026>

Spooky Teens Sugar Cookie Decorating Workshop

Saturday, October 10, 2pm–4pm, Branciforte Branch Library. Participants ages 12 – 18 will decorate pre-baked cookies using using & decorative toppings to create a spooky handmade gift for someone special. 230 Gault Street, Santa Cruz.

Teens can Register in advance: <https://santacruzpl.libnet.info/events?r=range&start=2026-10-10>

Halloween Mask Making Festival in Downtown Santa Cruz

Free, October 17, 12pm–4pm. Enjoy our Halloween Festival, including mask-making, Halloween games, and Thriller dance performance and Theatre Halloween performances.

London Nelson Community Center, 301 Center Street, Santa Cruz.

<https://www.santacruzca.gov/Government/City-Departments/Parks-Recreation/Community-Spaces/London-Nelson-Community-Center/London-Nelson-Events/2026-Mask-Making-Festival>



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SANTA CRUZ (continued)

13 Days of Halloween on the Wharf!

Santa Cruz Wharf, Monday, October 19 – 31. FREE. Join us for 13 days of Spooktacular fun, including The Great Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt., Photo Booth on the Wharf Stage, and more! <https://www.santacruzca.gov/Government/City-Departments/Parks-Recreation/13-Days-of-Halloween-on-the-Wharf-2026>

Trunk or Treat with The Sheriffs

Sheriff's Parking Lot, Friday, October 23, 5pm–8pm. Free event! There will be decorated trunks, free treats, food vendors, music, games, jump houses, and much more! 5400 Soquel Ave. Santa Cruz.

& on Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 2601 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville.

<https://www.santacruz.org/upcoming-event/county-sheriffs-office-trunk-or-treat/>

The Lost Boys Return to Santa Cruz

Friday, October 23, 7:30pm, If you missed the summer sand screening, another major themed celebration is scheduled for the Halloween season. The classic 1987 vampire film shot in Santa Cruz, with Live Music and Q&A.

418 Project, 155 S. River St., Santa Cruz. <https://the418project.org/events/the-lost-boys>

Gault School Annual Halloween Parade & Carnival

Saturday, October 24, 9am–1pm, Join our parade! (More info soon on website!) <https://www.gault.sccs.net/calendar>

Día de los Muertos Celebration at the MAH

Saturday, October 24, 12pm–3pm, Free. Join us for the Día de los Muertos community celebration of traditional music, dance, and art at the MAH. Throughout the day, we will have hands-on activities, live music, and the powerful presence of community. Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St., Downtown Santa Cruz.

<https://www.santacruzmah.org/events/diadelosmuertos-2026/2026/10/24>

Santa Cruz Downtown Trick or Treat

Saturday, October 31, 2pm–5pm, Bring the whole family (yes to Fur babies) Downtown for Trick or Treating from 2pm–5pm or until the candy runs out! Over 50 businesses handing out candy throughout the Downtown district.

<https://downtownsantacruz.com/do/trick-or-treat-downtown-santa-cruz-1>

If you know of an event we've missed or find an error, we'd be ever so grateful for a note: info@santacruzparent.com





SANTA CRUZ (continued)

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Trick-Or-Treating

Saturday, Oct. 31, 11pm–8pm. Celebrate Halloween with trick-or-treating, a costume contest, and spooktacular Boardwalk fun, and more! It is always free to enter the Boardwalk, but if you would like to receive a collectible Boardwalk bag with a punch card for trick-or-treating, see the website link below! 400 Beach Street, Santa Cruz.

<https://beachboardwalk.com/halloween/>

Abbott Square: Dog Halloween Costume Contest

Saturday, October 31, 5–6pm, No, it's not too soon to discuss your dog's Halloween costume. It's your Fur Baby's time to shine! Sign up your dog to model their costume on the Abbott Square Stage during the Halloween Dog Costume Contest. Prizes for best costumes. Sign up begins at 4PM in person. Prizes for best costumes. Entries limited to 20 pups. Abbott Square Market Enter at 725 Front St, Santa Cruz & 118 Cooper Street.

<https://downtownsantacruz.com/do/halloween-dog-costume-contest>

SCOTTS VALLEY

Teal Pumpkin Project

THE TEAL PUMPKIN PROJECT IS BACK! For some trick-or-treaters, candy treats can be scary!

For just \$30, you'll receive a teal pumpkin bucket filled with 50 non-food treats (such as fidgets, small toys, games, puzzles, and other kid-friendly goodies) delivered to your doorstep. This year, we're making it easy to bring inclusive Halloween fun right to you by providing non-food treats for children who may not be able to participate in traditional candy-based trick-or-treating because of food allergies, dietary restrictions, medical conditions, or other reasons.

Proceeds from this project will help support the delivery of medical supplies to Game Rangers International (GRI) in Zambia. ORDER HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/tealpumpkin2026>

Community Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, October 21, 5:30pm–8pm

(Check website soon for more info!) 1800 Green Hills Rd., Scotts Valley. <https://lightspeedtkd.com>



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SCOTTS VALLEY (continued)

Halloween Food Truck Friday with FirePeach

Friday, October 30, 4:30pm–7:30pm. Join us at Skypark in Scotts Valley for our final Food Truck Friday of the year! Bring your family, friends, and picnic blankets for an evening packed with delicious food truck eats, live music by FIREPEACH, cold beer and wine, and community fun. Costumes are strongly encouraged! Skypark, 361 Kings Village Rd., Scotts Valley. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2172425143679718/>

WATSONVILLE

Tractor or Treat at the Agriculture History Project

Saturday, October 10, 11am–3pm. Come on out for some amazing fall fun on the farm. Enjoy trick-or-treating around the farm, puppet theater, drive a tractor, Tractor Simulator, and more! (Other 2nd Saturday events are on website as well. Check website SOON for more specifics for this year's Tractor or Treat!) 2601 East Lake Avenue, Hwy 152, Watsonville. <https://aghistoryproject.org/2nd-saturday-on-the-farm/>

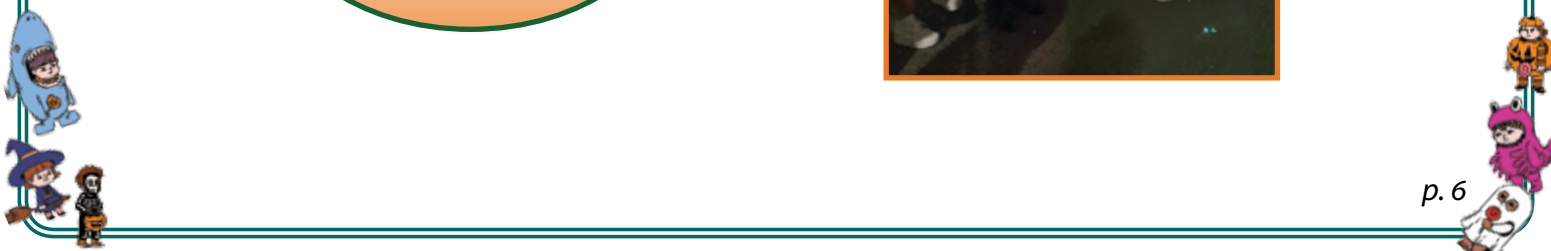
Halloween Spooktacular Watsonville Family YMCA

Free Community Event! Friday, October 23, 6:30pm–8pm. Get those costumes ready because Spooktacular is back! Join us for a FREE evening of Halloween fun for the whole community, filled with treats, creativity, costumes, and plenty of surprises along the way. Bring the family, dress up, and celebrate with us at the Watsonville Family YMCA! 27 Sudden St, Watsonville. <https://www.centralcoastymca.org/events/2026/10/23/watsonville-events/spooktacular/>

Watsonville Downtown Candy Crawl

Saturday, October 24, 2pm–6pm. Join us for a hauntingly good time as we trick-or-treat our way through downtown Watsonville businesses! Main Street and E. Beach Street, Watsonville. <https://www.watsonville.gov/2263/Downtown-Candy-Crawl>

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WATSONVILLE (continued)

Watsonville Public Library Spooky Stuff Sleepover

Monday, October 26, 6pm. Audience: Ages 4–12. THEY'RE ALIVE! You and your favorite stuffed animal are invited to a spooky storytime and craft. Come dressed in pajamas and bring a stuffed animal that will spend the night at the haunted library. Patrons will be able to come to pick up their stuffed animals starting the next day on Tuesday, October 27 through Monday, November 9. Watsonville Public Library 275 Main St., Suite 100, Watsonville.

<https://watsonville.gov/1979/ProgramsEvents>

Watsonville Plaza: Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

Sunday November 1, A one-day Día de Muertos cultural festival at Watsonville City Plaza. 275 Main Street, Watsonville. (831) 325-8724. *Check back for more info soon!*

<https://montereybayevents.com/event/watsonville-dia-de-muertos-festival/>

BEYOND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

The BOO is Back at Gilroy Gardens

The Great Big BOO returns! September 25 – November 1. Halloween Fun for the whole family! 3050 Hecker Pass, Gilroy. <https://www.gilroygardens.org/halloween>

Festival Fright Nights, Winchester Mystery House

Available Nights September 18 – November 1. Experience one of the Bay Area's most thrilling Halloween events. *See website for many details!* 525 S. Winchester Blvd, San Jose. <https://festivalfrightnights.com>





ADULT HALLOWEEN ENTERTAINMENT

First Friday Museum of the Macabre at Museum of Natural History

Friday, October 2, 5pm–8pm. Free! Join us as we kick off Museum of the Macabre, a month where we explore the strange, the eerie, and the curious side of nature. Enjoy a special Cabinet of Curiosity exhibit alongside live taxidermy demos, real snakes, spooky crafts and more! 1305 E Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz.

<https://santacruzmuseum.org/event/first-friday-museum-of-the-macabre/>

Halloween Boardwalk Fright Flicks

Wednesdays, October 7 – 28, Doors 7:30pm, Movie starts 8pm. Bring your friends for a night of fun and frights!

In the historic Grove Ballroom. 400 Beach Street, Santa Cruz. <https://beachboardwalk.com/boardwalk-fright-flicks/>

Cocoa Vino Layered Wood Paint Party for Trick or Treat

Monday, October 12, 6pm. Join us in beautiful Capitola Village at Cocoa Vino for a festive Halloween paint workshop!

We'll provide everything you need to create your own wooden Halloween door sign—just bring your creativity and come ready for a fun night out. While you paint, enjoy Cocoa Vino's delicious wines and food, available for purchase.

Grab a friend (or two!) and spend the evening painting, sipping, and getting into the Halloween spirit. This is a 21+ event and seating is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot before we sell out! 312 Capitola Ave., Capitola.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10238981205321151>

UCSC 2026 Festival of Monsters

Academic conference will explore how monsters and language intertwine with panels on monsters and communication, cursed texts, monster poetry and more. The conference will take place Oct. 14 – 18, at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel (313 Riverside Ave, Santa Cruz) near the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

And there will be a day of public events (see link below) on Saturday, Oct. 17, in downtown Santa Cruz.

<https://www.monsterstudies.ucsc.edu/2026fest> and <https://www.monsterstudies.ucsc.edu/2026public>

Witches Ball 2026 at the Brookdale Lodge

Saturday, October 24, 7pm–1:30am. Get ready to cast some spells and dance all night at the wildest witchy bash of 2026! 11570 Hwy 9, Brookdale. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/witches-ball-2026-tickets-1993159302127>

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ADULT HALLOWEEN ENTERTAINMENT (continued)

Chaminade Resort & Spa: Vampire Ball

Saturday, October 31, 8:30pm–12:30am (21+ event). Enjoy drinks (cash bar), a heavy bites station, a vampire DJ, dancing, a costume contest, photo ops and entertainment including fortune tellers & fire dancers! Costume contests!

1 Chaminade Lane, Santa Cruz. Tickets, etc on website.

<https://www.chaminade.com/things-to-do-santa-cruz/vampire-ball/>

Halloween at the Haunted Bar, Vino by the Sea

Saturday, October 31, 8pm–11pm. Come spend Halloween at the Haunted Bar in Santa Cruz! Prizes for best costume!

This Halloween!! Spooktacular Event at Vino! All of you Ghouls, Goblins, Witches, Angels, Devils, Warlocks — come meet your tribe! <https://www.vino-by-the-sea.com> or

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheSantaCruzCommunity/permalink/28346343668310240/>

China Cats 13th Annual Halloween, Santa Cruz Vets Hall

Saturday, October 31. Doors 7pm, Show 8pm. Music, Dancing, Liquid Light Show, Costume Contest, *ALL AGES*.

A Santa Cruz tradition with the bay areas longest running Grateful Dead Tribute Band. 846 Front St, Santa Cruz.

Tickets: <https://mountainmusicproductions.com/event/6646395/775429458/halloween-with-the-china-cats-2026>

Santa Cruz Downtown Costume Parade ... Continues

Saturday, Oct. 31, about 6pm. Stay downtown or come back for fun! After the kiddies are done trick or treating, people often stay downtown to join the costume parade and frivolity, some with the whole family and some just adults.

There are often street musicians and people dancing. Pacific Avenue remains closed to traffic.



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MORE PLACES TO GET COSTUMES

Carolines Nonprofit

Open Monday–Friday 11am–5pm, Saturday 12pm–5pm. Has several racks of costumes!
(831) 662-0327. Corner of Trout Gulch & Soquel, Aptos <https://carolinesnonprofit.org/>

Costco Santa Cruz

Open 7 days, Right now they are very low on Costumes and Halloween Accessories (Close to SOLD OUT!) but they show some on their website! <https://www.costco.com/c/halloween.html>

Forever Thrift

Open Monday – Thursday 11am–6pm Friday – Sunday 11am–7pm. Has some Halloween costumes.
(831) 316-7865. 1616 Seabright Avenue, Santa Cruz.

Several Goodwill Stores in the Central Coast area:

<https://www.cgoodwill.org/shop/goodwill-store-directory/>

(See some specific stores below):

Goodwill Santa Cruz

Open 9am–7pm every day. Costumes for Kids and Adults. Restocking several times a week! 204 Union St., Santa Cruz.

Goodwill Capitola

Open 9am–9pm every day. Restocking several times a week! 1550 41st Ave., Capitola.

Goodwill Scotts Valley

Open 9am–8pm every day! Restocking several times a week! 224 Mt. Hermon Rd., Scotts Valley.

Grey Bears Thrift Store

Stores are open every day, Monday – Sunday, 10am–4:30pm.

Might have a few costumes &/or clothing and other items people can put together as costumes. *Check for updates!*

831-479-1055. 2710 Chanticleer Ave, Santa Cruz. <https://greybears.org/thrift-store/>

Hope Thrift Super Store

Open Tuesdays – Sundays, 10am–6pm, Closed Mondays. Halloween costumes. *Check back for updates!*

(831) 761-5440. 1062 S. Green Valley Rd., Watsonville. <https://hope-thrift.org/>





MORE PLACES TO GET COSTUMES (continued)

Hopes Closet SC

Open Tuesday – Friday, 10am–5pm, Saturday 11am–4pm. Children’s Halloween costumes.
(831) 462-6700. 2555-2557 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz. <https://www.hopesclosetsc.com/>

Little Trends Boo Day Online Halloween Sale

Halloween collection is 40% off! Discount automatically applied at checkout.
<https://www.littletrendsboutique.com/collections/halloween-collection-presale>

Santa Cruz Thrift Center

Getting more costumes for kids daily! (831) 429-6975. 1305 Water St., Santa Cruz.
<https://www.facebook.com/FlipsideThriftSantaCruz>

Spirit Halloween stores

Costumes, Accessories and Decorations of all kinds for everyone!
<https://stores.spirithalloween.com/search?q=Santa%20Cruz,%20California>

Spirit Halloween Santa Cruz

Open thru October 31. Monday – Friday, 10am–10pm, Saturday, 10am–9pm, Sunday, 10am–7pm.
1407 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz (Former Palace Arts location)

Spirit Halloween Capitola Mall

Monday – Friday, 11am–7pm, Saturday, 10am–7pm, Sunday, 12pm–6pm.
1855 41st Avenue, Suite 727-G100, Capitola (Former Sears space)

St. John’s Thrift Shop (Helpful Shop)

Have many witches hats & a few decorations, possibly a few costumes.
831-708-4238. 246-A Center Ave, Aptos. <https://www.st-john-aptos.org/helpful-shop.html>

Woodworm Party Store

We are getting new Halloween costumes and accessories every day! Check website for more coming up!
(Also see listing above under Capitola for event!) 827 Bay Ave., Capitola
<https://www.facebook.com/woodwormpartystore> and <https://www.woodwormpartystore.com/>

