

# Guidelines for Trunk-or-Treat

Pennington Park Church

Trunk-or-Treat is an alternative to traditional trick-or-treat during the Halloween season and involves volunteers creatively decorating their vehicles/trunks and passing out candy. The benefit of Trunk-or-Treat is to provide a safer, more convenient environment for families to enjoy while still getting the experience of trick-or-treating. Children will still wear costumes but be able to make their rounds from vehicle to vehicle because we will be in a central location. Below are some helpful guidelines for how to decorate your table!

## Decorations and Costumes

- Be creative with your decorations in order to make the experience memorable for participating families and children.
- Regarding themes or cultural references in your decorations, be sure to use themes that would be understandable to children. For example, a “Gone with the Wind” themed trunk may look spectacular but would not be familiar to a 9-year-old.
- Keep trunks and decorations family-friendly by avoiding blood, gore, intense images, innuendos, demonic or satanic references, skeletons, etc.
- Limit your decorations (including your vehicle) to fit within a roughly 9x20 foot space.
- Smile and embody Christ when interacting with families and children during the Fall Festival. Remember, many families have chosen to attend the event, expecting it to be a safe and uplifting alternative to their neighborhoods or other venues.
- **Most creatively decorated space will win a \$100 gift card for a group celebration!**

## FAQ

1. How do I sign up for a Trunk-or-Treat station?  
**Head on over to [www.penningtonpark.com/fallfest](http://www.penningtonpark.com/fallfest) to view our volunteer page and sign up for opportunities. When signing up for a Trunk-or-Treat station, just let us know what group you represent (i.e. “Brown’s Small Group” or “Smith family”) and, if possible, what theme you’ll be doing for your Trunk-or-Treat decorations.**
2. Can my family or small group do more than one Trunk-or-Treat station?  
**Absolutely! The more the merrier. We just ask you sign up for each station that your family or group will be doing so we know how many vehicles and parking spots to plan for.**
3. Is the Trunk-or-Treat going to be happening during the entire Fall Festival?  
**Yep! Because this is a come-and-go event, we want to provide all activities during the two hour period so that families and attendees can enjoy everything no matter when they arrive.**
4. Do I need to be at my station the entire time, or can I leave to enjoy the Fall Festival?  
**Your Trunk-or-Treat station will always need someone present during Fall Festival. We encourage small groups and families to divide their time so that everyone can enjoy the Fall Festival and not have to man their station for 2 hours straight.**

5. Will I need to provide my own candy for my station?

Nope! We've got you covered on candy, and we'll make sure it's distributed evenly between all Trunk-or-Treat stations. We do recommend having some kind of container that can hold candy so that you don't have to continually handle large, heavy bags. It's even better if this container is decorated to match the theme of your station!

6. I'm having a hard time thinking of ideas for my Trunk-or-Treat station. Can you help me out?

There are so many great Trunk-or-Treat ideas out there. If you want a good place to start brainstorming, just Google "Family-friendly trunk-or-treat ideas." Design-oriented websites like Pinterest are also a good resource to get the creative juices flowing.

7. What if my Trunk-or-Treat design will require more than one parking space?

We're asking everyone to do their best to limit the overall size of their Trunk-or-Treat station to a single parking spot, but we also don't want to crush your creative spirit! If your design requires more square footage than a single parking spot, you can email Joel Israel at [jisrael@penningtonpark.com](mailto:jisrael@penningtonpark.com) to discuss some options.

8. Will it be safe to pass out candy and be around children with COVID-19 concerns?

We're doing everything in our power to make sure this event is safe, wise, and fun, and we're asking for your grace and patience as we weigh all three of those goals together. We'll be taking proper precautions during the entire event, including social distance markers, low-contact activities, and PPE items where appropriate. This event will also be outdoors which will allow for fewer restrictions on our volunteers and attendees. More details will be sent to you after you sign up for a Trunk-or-Treat station.