

## Ghost Treats

A Halloween doesn't go by that I don't remember Trick-or-Treating as a child. I loved the houses that would hand out homemade treats; the people that would invite you into their home and present you with a huge table filled with awesome treats for you to pick from! I vividly recall an elderly woman, who would make small caramel popcorn balls and place them in the center of a tissue and tie it so it looked like a ghost, those were my absolute favorite! These were the kind of things that inspired me as a child to have fun with holidays. And if there is any doubt, yes, I do consider Halloween a real holiday!

Halloween just seems to get bigger and bigger every year, from extravagant costumes to over the top home décor; it's grown into a mega retailers dream. I see all the big events at the park districts, churches and schools, but every year I see fewer and fewer kids Trick-or-Treating. As a parent I understand the worry about safety issues, however if we kept Halloween in our own neighborhoods rather than taking kids out to other towns or the so called "popular" neighborhoods, we might diminish some of those fears and concerns. Every year I set up an elaborate treat display hoping this will be the year I get tons of kids ringing my doorbell, and at the end of the night I tell myself maybe next year, that optimism may stem from being a long time Chicago Cubs fan.... It's actually kind of sad, but I'm not a quitter!

Have we forgotten how much fun we had as kids, when Trick-or-Treating wasn't regulated to a 2 hour window, when you waited till it was dark to *start* Trick-or-Treating rather than stop? I certainly haven't forgotten and this year I'll do it all over again, as a matter of fact I've already started planning my dessert table and it'll be bigger and better than ever. I'm determined to bring back the true spirit and innocence of Halloween, someday there will be a kid or two who will fondly remember Trick-or-treating and "that lady" who invited them into her home and had an amazing display of treats to pick from!

