

## THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN

Views From the Staff

Evelyn Eckhardt  
Editor/Reporter

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Samhain, later known as Halloween, originated in the United Kingdom and Northern France, today known as Ireland. The Celts held a pre-Christian festival on October 31st and believed that the dead would return to Earth on the night of Samhain. The villagers disguised themselves in animal skins to drive away undesirable visitors. As a peace offering, banquet tables stocked with edible offerings were put out. Centuries later, people started dressing up as ghosts, demons, and other malevolent creatures. They would often

perform antics or tricks for food and drinks, which became known as mumming, and later became to be thought of as an earlier version of trick-or-treating.

In 1000 AD, the Church designated November 2nd to All Souls Day. During All Souls Day, the less fortunate would go to the wealthier homes and receive pastries known as soul cakes. In exchange for soul cakes, the underprivileged people would promise to pray and honor the homeowners' deceased relatives. Subsequently, this practice

became familiarized as souling and was taken over by children. The children then went from door to door asking for money, food, and ale.

In the 1840's, immigrants fleeing the Irish Potato Famine helped popularize Halloween in the United States. In the early 20th century, Irish and Scottish communities brought back souling and guising in the US. However, by the 1920's, children and teens began to prank members of the community, resulting in potential damage. Supposedly, the excessive pranks were the reason

trick-or-treating gained its popularity. However, when World War II came about, Halloween was delayed due to sugar rationing. After the mid-twentieth-century baby boom, Halloween soon sprang back to life and gave children an event to truly express themselves for decades.



How old is too old to trick-or-treat? This is a question teenagers get asked every year around Halloween. I personally believe that anyone of any age can enjoy this holiday. Halloween is a great time to hang out with friends, and escape the stress of school, work or any other obligations. The holiday is one of self-expression, letting people be creative and show who they are. Plus, everyone loves free candy!

## HOW OLD IS TOO OLD TO TRICK OR TREAT?

Evelyn Eckhardt  
Editor/Reporter

According to *Today*, more than 2,000 readers responded to a poll conducted on the appropriate age to stop trick-or-treating. About 73% agreed that teens should stop trick-or-treating around the ages 12-17. However, 70% of the people feel that Halloween should be celebrated among children and young adults. Many adults agree that they would rather see teens trick-or-treating than going out and drinking or doing drugs.

On the other hand,

other parents disagree. Most parents stop their children from trick-or-treating around the age of 12. Also, many of them agreed that by the age you're able to attain a license and a job, trick-or-treating is unnecessary.



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## TEACHER AND STUDENT OPINIONS ON TRICK OR TREATING

Lucas Reilly  
Editor/Reporter

### FRESHMAN

"You're never too old to trick-or-treat."

Angelina Athanasopoulos



### SOPHOMORE

"If you're putting actual effort into your costume, then I don't think you can ever be too old."

Emily Palmisano



### JUNIOR

"Never, it's the joy of the spirit; it's part of Halloween!"

Ethan Short



### SENIOR

"Probably like 15 . . . If you're 14, you're still like a Freshman, just getting into high school . . . once you're 15, boys start to grow facial hair and it's a little weird."

Chad Carson



### TEACHERS

Mr. McCord:

"There's no age limit. Why can't anybody just go around and get some candy from people on Halloween?"

Ms. D:

"5th or 6th grade is the last year . . . kids shouldn't be trick-or-treating in Junior High. You're getting a little old at that point and it's for the kids."