



# Pumpkin Festival

NORWICH • NEW YORK

[www.norwichpumpkinfestival.com](http://www.norwichpumpkinfestival.com)

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As one of the 'signature' events of the Greater Norwich Community, the Norwich Pumpkin Festival will be marking 13 years of FREE family fun this year. **Attached you will find the Sponsorship Levels and a Commitment Form for your consideration.** This event started with the hope of breaking the Guinness Book of World Records for the most lit jack-o-lanterns in one place, an honor held by Keene, NH at that time. Although Norwich has never surpassed the 10,000 pumpkin mark, through the years the Pumpkin Festival has become less of a competition and more of a showcase for families and the community at-large, to express creativity through one of America's most popular seasonal traditions; the jack-o-lantern.

The Pumpkin Festival is coordinated through the Norwich Business Improvement District Office and is made possible due to the hard work of volunteers and the various local foundations, businesses and individuals that contribute funds so generously to keep all Festival activities free of charge.

This year the festival will take place beginning at **noon on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> and run until 9pm on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>**. Due to the recent renovations of East & West Parks, there will be a whole new set-up to fascinate our long-time visitors. The event will feature live music performances by various artists, dancers, street performers, caricature artists, face painters, balloon artists, crafters, a costume contest, a pumpkin bake-off, carving contests, food vendors, kids rides and numerous other children's activities. It's a festival for all ages and takes place rain or shine.

Integrated into the festival is the annual Norwich Family YMCA Halloween Parade that runs down Broad Street at 2pm on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. It features hundreds of costumed children marching with floats or their families, to compete for prizes for the funniest costume, most original, spookiest and more. Schools, businesses and organizations jump on board by entering floats that also contend for a coveted prize or trophy. The Halloween parade is a tradition whose length eclipses the Pumpkin Festival itself by being at least four times as old.

Everyone and anyone is invited to bring a carved pumpkin from home (or carve one in our Community Carving Tent) to add to our pumpkin count. As always, your pumpkins can return home with you at the conclusion of the Festival for your own enjoyment on Halloween day. Thousands of pumpkins will once again be arranged on a pyramid of scaffolding in the center of downtown Norwich. The sight of all these glowing pumpkins stacked high into the night is bound to leave you with a smile on your face as you "oooh" and "aaah" at the ingenuity and creativity of Chenango's finest carvers.

The Pumpkin Festival Committee welcomes the addition of any and all volunteers to assist with all facets related to the event. Maybe you have a work crew that would be interested in set-up or take-down activities, or perhaps you would like to work at a Pumpkin Log-In station; if you have the time, we have the work ... and without volunteers this festival would not be possible. For further details, call Pegi LoPresti at the Norwich BID Office at 607.336.1811 or log on to our web site at [www.norwichpumpkinfestival.com](http://www.norwichpumpkinfestival.com).