



TRICK-OR-TREAT PLANNING

Candy Cheat Sheet

Fill it in with a pencil, then check it in the calculator.

1 Your Trick-or-Treaters

Last year's count _____

If you counted last year, use that number and skip the estimate.

_____ hours × _____ kids an hour = _____

Check whether your town sets official trick-or-treat hours. Many do, and they cap your night.

Rain? Mars Wrigley and Shipt's rule of thumb: divide by 1.5. It comes from a candy company, not a measured effect.

After rain _____

Saturday? Halloween 2026 falls on one. There is no reputable data on whether weekends change turnout, so if you expect a bigger crowd, raise your safety margin.

2 The Math

Trick-or-treaters _____

× pieces each (your choice; ours is 3) _____

+ safety margin (we suggest 10%) _____

+ snacking: days × people × pieces a day _____

= pieces to buy _____

÷ pieces in your bag _____

= bags, rounded up _____

No survey counts pieces per kid. Help-yourself bowls should plan for more: that's the margin's job.

3 Read the Bag

The Mars Wrigley formula divides by 30 to get bags. Almost no Halloween bag holds 30 pieces.

BAG	PIECES	EACH
Dum Dums Original Mix	600	8¢
Mars Mixed Halloween Chocolate Variety Bag	65	15¢
M&M'S, Snickers, Twix & Milky Way Variety Pack	120	17¢
M&M'S, Snickers, Skittles & Twix Fun Size and Minis	60	17¢
YumEarth Organic Pops	250	19¢
Snickers, Twix & Milky Way Minis	150	20¢
Mars Chocolate Favorites Variety Mix	135	27¢
Snickers, Twix, Milky Way & 3 Musketeers Full Size	30	\$1.49

Amazon prices checked Sept 26, 2026.

4 The Teal Bowl

"Keep your food treats and non-food treats in separate bowls." FARE

FARE's non-food ideas: glow sticks, bracelets and necklaces, pencils, bubbles, erasers, mini Slinkies, bouncy balls, spider rings, vampire fangs, stickers. Choose latex-free items, and skip moldable clay that contains wheat.

Fun size isn't always the same recipe. FARE: many miniature versions "contain different ingredients than their full-size counterparts."

Toddlers: the FDA tells parents to remove small toys and hard candies, so keep tiny items for older kids.

Non-food treats needed _____

5 Count at the Door *A tick for every kid, the time every half hour, so next year's estimate is real.*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Hand out only commercially wrapped candy: the FDA tells parents not to let kids eat anything that isn't.

Total tonight _____