The Great Pumpkin Carve

Chadds Ford Historical Society
1736 Creek Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317
610-388-7376 ~ www.chaddsfordhistory.org

THE GREAT PUMPKIN CARVE
OCTOBER 15th _ 17th, 2026

Dear Pumpkin Carver:

This year, The Great Pumpkin Carve, a Chadds Ford tradition, is scheduled **Thursday, October 15th from 2pm – 9pm, Friday, October 16th from 2pm – 10pm and Saturday, October 17th from 12pm – 10pm,** rain or shine. In case of seriously inclement weather, a decision will be made about any one of the three nights. The actual carving will take place on **Thursday, October 15th at 1 p.m**. We're hoping for your participation!

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING RULES CAREFULLY. CFHS reserves the right to amend these rules at any time with notification to registered carvers. To qualify for the award categories, the participating pumpkin and carver **must comply** with the contest's general **guidelines** as follows:

1. Mail in the below registration form with a check made payable to CFHS (Chadds Ford Historical Society). **FOUR Carvers per pumpkin**, NO EXCEPTIONS. **Carvers' ages 12 - 17** years old MUST be accompanied by an adult. No children under age 12 are allowed in the carving area. **Registration payment of $40 is per pumpkin, not per carver.**

2. **Pumpkins** are **assigned** on a **first-come, first-served basis**, and there are a limited number of pumpkins. **Numbers are assigned as registrations are received and no changes are allowed.** Additional carvers are put on a waiting list to replace registered carvers that do not show the day of the Carve.

3. **NO VEHICLES IN THE PUMPKIN PATCH *or* CHADDS FORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY GROUNDS. Please be prepared to transport all necessary tools from the meadow parking lot by foot or some other way – BRING A WHEELBARROW, WAGON OR some other non-mechanized form of transport. *The meadow parking lot opens at 12:45pm - NO EARLIER.***

4. **Carver check-in is on Thursday, October 15th starting at 1:00 p.m. - NO EARLIER.** Once checked in by our volunteers, you can go to your pumpkin and start carving.

5. **BRING YOUR OWN CANDLES for Thursday night lighting – no glass candle holders.** The Historical Society will replenish candles for the second and third nights, but it is your responsibility to illuminate your pumpkin the first night for judging consideration.

6. **NO designs or creations pertaining to Politics. NO EXCEPTIONS**

7. **PLEASE DO NOT RELOCATE / REARRANGE** pumpkins or straw bales. All pumpkins and straw bales MUST be in their original position and location when your carving is complete.

8. **The Chadds Ford Historical Society reserves the right to remove pumpkin carvings that are deemed offensive and/or inappropriate for a family event.** The decision to remove a pumpkin is at the sole discretion of the Chadds Ford Historical Society. All decisions are final. No refunds will be given for pumpkins removed from display.

9. If a carver is **not carving** their pumpkin **by 4:00 p.m.**, without notice that they are running late, that pumpkin will be **forfeited** to a carver on the waiting list.

10. Carving MUST be completed by 7 p.m. on Thursday night to be eligible for judging. Winners will be posted on the Chadds Ford Historical Society website on Friday, October 17th.

11. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are permitted before or while carving for the safety of you and other carvers.

12. **NO DOGS ALLOWED** at the event. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

13. ***Carving Tools & Pumpkin Lighting*:** The use of power tools of any kind (including battery operated), and/or the use of pumpkin lighting other than natural flame lit candles, will disqualify you from all prize categories except the People's Choice Award.

14. ***Props:*** The use of additional materials as design elements, including props such as small pumpkins, squash, glitter, etc. are allowed. No wooden, metal or plastic posts or poles.

15. If you want to pick up your carved pumpkin **AFTER** the 3-day event, please email us at CFPumpkinCarve@gmail.com by the end of the day, Friday, October 16th to be on the list. Carvers can pick up their pumpkin(s) on **Sunday, October 18th, between 9:00am – 12pm**. **NOTE: Please refrain from taking anyone else's pumpkin without consent!!**

Please Note: your registration must be received in the office by Friday, **October 2nd**, the sooner, the better. Once received, you will get an email confirmation with your assigned Pumpkin #.

Sincerely, *The Great Pumpkin Carve Committee*

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GREAT PUMPKIN CARVE 2026 – CARVER SIGN-UP

Carver #1 Name:_____Phone:_____

Address:_____City: _____ State:_____

Zip:_____Email:_____

Please enclose a **$40 non-refundable check** and make payable to CFHS (Chadds Ford Historical Society).

Names of Additional Carvers (**up to 3 additional carvers**) - *Please print neatly!*

#2 _____ #3_____#4_____

Return by Friday, October 2nd to:
Chadds Ford Historical Society
Attn: Pumpkin Carve, 1736 Creek Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

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Prize Categories

A panel of judges will determine the winners and honorable mentions in the following categories:
Best Overall, Most Traditional Halloween, and Best Use of Pumpkin.

BEST OVERALL

A clean carving with a high degree of detail, imagination and creativity using cutting, carving, or engraving to achieve outstanding effects in the final design. Create a new twist on the ol' jack-o-lantern or come up with a pumpkin that will be sure to stand out in any patch!

MOST TRADITIONAL HALLOWEEN

Includes all traditional Halloween-themed designs, such as jack-o-lanterns, ghosts, goblins, and witches.

BEST USE OF PUMPKIN

Pumpkins that have been carved to their fullest. Qualifying pumpkins will be judged for original size and shape that are incorporated into the final design. This could include using pieces of the pumpkin to change the shape!

BEST "CHADDS FORD" THEME

Pumpkins that depict Chadds Ford in a unique way.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

This is chosen by the spectators during all three nights of the Great Pumpkin Carve. Visitors can vote for their favorite pumpkin in person, with the winner being announced on Monday after the event.