

## How to Participate in the Central Park Conservancy's Pumpkin Sail

1. **Mark your calendar.** The Central Park Conservancy's annual Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Sail will take place (weather permitting . no rain date) on Sunday, October 23, 2011 from 4:00 pm . 7:00 pm at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center. The Dana Discovery Center is a Visitor Center in Central Park's northeast corner, located inside the Park on 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues. Participation in the event is free; all ages are welcome. There is no advance registration.



*Photo: Regina A.*

2. **Get a pumpkin.** Purchase a pumpkin between 5 lbs . 10 lbs. Not sure how big that is? It should look somewhere between the size of a softball and a soccer ball. If your pumpkin weighs more than 10 lbs it will be too heavy for the float devices and cannot be included in the Sail.
3. **Carve your jack-o'-lantern.** Pumpkins must be gutted and carved. Any decorations must be made of natural, biodegradable materials. Do not add light bulbs, candles, or floats; a tea light and floating device will be provided when you drop off your jack-o'-lantern.
4. **Drop your jack-o'-lantern off on Sunday, October 23 between 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm** at the Dana Discovery Center. Jack-o'-lanterns will not be returned after the Sail. Space to participate in the sail is limited to 50 floats; pumpkins that do not meet the requirements for participation or are dropped off after 50 floats have been filled will be put on display (space permitting) during the event and will not be included in the Sail.
5. **Enjoy the event.** The Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Sail features fun activities including a pumpkin-carving demonstration, pumpkin painting craft, spooky storytelling, live saw music, and a costume parade before the Pumpkin Sail, which takes place at twilight.
6. **Choose your seat and watch the Sail.** Once the activities close, find a spot along the edge of the Harlem Meer, the body of water directly adjacent to the Dana Discovery Center. Remember to stay on the steps and rocks, and not to trample the plants. At twilight (around 6:15pm), the jack-o'-lanterns will float by in New York's largest pumpkin flotilla.

For more information about the Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Sail, please call the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center at 212-860-1370.