


**October:** It's the perfect month – no longer the hot humid days of summer, but not the cold snowy days of winter yet.

What a great time of year and chance to experience so many different things, both inside and outside. Crisp cool mornings, sunny warm days, sweaters and sweatshirts, pumpkins and apples galore, football, the last of roasting marshmallows on an open fire.

Take the opportunity to spend time together as a family, as well as invite other friends and families, the more the merrier. Try something new or introduce others to a favorite tradition or activity you enjoyed when you were growing up.

- 🍁 Visit a pumpkin patch, stroll through the 100's of pumpkins. Which are your favorite – large, small, tall, short, round, odd shaped, long stem, no stem!
- 🍁 Carve the pumpkins – see who can come up with the funniest, the scariest, the weirdest, the goofiest – you make up the categories.
- 🍁 Go for a walk on a trail or at the park and take in all the beautiful colors of the changing leaves, take pictures, jump in a pile of leaves, or just sit and listen to the crunching of the leaves as people walk by!
- 🍁 Collect some of the prettiest leaves to bring home for decorations or crafting projects (lots of ideas on Pinterest).
- 🍁 Take the family to a local high school or college football game – cheer on your home team and enjoy some hot dogs and hot cider!
- 🍁 Get some other families involved and have your own touch football game. Losing team makes lunch for the winning team!
- 🍁 Discuss and plan the family/kids Halloween costumes – try making them instead of purchasing pre-made costumes.
- 🍁 As a family decorate the house, inside and out! Make a scarecrow, bats, jack-o'-lanterns!
- 🍁 Visit an apple orchard – pick apples then decide what you're going to make – applesauce, apple butter, pie, crumble, bread, baked apples – the options are endless.
- 🍁 Sit outside, wrapped in cozy blankets sipping hot cocoa or cider, and read a book aloud: *Harry Potter*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *Frankenstein*, *Mouse's First Halloween*, *Little Boo!*

- 🍁 Participate in and support the various Harvest Festivals around the community, so much to do - hay rides, corn mazes, chili dogs, candied apples, cake wheels, games!
- 🍁 As a family watch a kid-friendly Halloween movie – *Hocus Pocus*, *Haunted Mansion*, *Beetlejuice*, *Hotel Transylvania*, *Halloweentown*, *It's the Great Pumpkins*, *Charlie Brown*.
- 🍁 Pumpkin spice everything! Purchase items to enjoy or come up with your own recipes. 🍁
- 🍁 What other activities or ideas can you and your family come up with?

The activities don't have to be expensive, organized or complicated; the main point is to spend time together with family and friends, enjoy each other's company, play, be silly, have some good food, and most of all – LAUGH, a lot!