

Halloween is still sweet. Roll with the changes

It's finally happened. My kids don't want me to dress in a costume for Halloween. That would be, to use a direct quote, "Totally embarrassing." It used to be our thing. When they were little and I could pick out their costumes, I got the chance to show my Winnie-the-Pooh love by dressing us all as characters. When I was pregnant with my son, Ben, my belly rounded out my Pooh Bear costume perfectly. It was a magical year.

Then my kids had their own opinions on what they were for Halloween. We've seen Troy from "High School Musical," Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz" and our fair share of pirates and princesses. When this phase hit, I would resurrect my roller-skating waitress costume, year after year.

This year, my daughter is all about the 1950s, since she saw "Grease" a few months ago. So she and her bestie are dressing in vintage clothes from that era for Mickey's Halloween Party, at Disneyland Resort. At 13, she's too old to go trick-or-treating – nothing worse than a group of teenagers coming to your door and clearing out your candy stash – so this is her only big Halloween festivity.

Mickey's Halloween Party is a special ticketed event at Disneyland Resort that runs 12 nights in October. (Go to [\[disneyland.com\]](https://www.disneyland.com) for ticket prices and a schedule.) They close down the park and transform it into a spooktacular Halloween party. The best part: The kids get to trick-or-treat at DISNEYLAND! It's an absolutely mind-blowing experience. Also, guests get to experience things that only happen at Mickey's Party, such as their special Halloween fireworks show and a Costume Party Cavalcade Parade. Adding to the fun: It's the only time that adults are allowed into the park in full

costume. Hooray! But, um, not per my kids. So no dressing up for me... except for ... my Minnie Mouseish costume at Mickey's Halloween Party. Check out my photos:

✘ Tick or Treat stations throughtout the park.

✘ My son and I on the tram into the park

✘

My daughter's friend posing with Duffy at Big Thunder Ranch. ✘

Dapper Dans singing Halloween-themed songs at Big Thunder Ranch

Although my daughter will no longer go trick-or-treating, my son, who is 10, is still heading out to collect what always turns out to be too much candy. So this year, we are gong to participate in the Halloween Candy Buy Back Program. It allows kids to sell their candy to a local dentist to earn cash – which I suspect will simply be used to buy candy. The sweetest thing is that this year the program is teaming up with Spry and Operation Gratitude. Together they will work with participating dentists to collect children's Halloween candy to send to the U.S. troops overseas, along with toothbrushes and other oral care items. Just go to **[halloweencandybuyback.com]** and enter your zip code. A list of local dentists will be provided.

I do miss the days of dressing up and hitting the neighborhood with my kids, each year holds sweet memories for us. Anyone need to borrow my roller-skating waitress costume? I'm rolling with the changes but, sadly, not rolling door to

door with my kids anymore.