



A social story about visiting Pumpkin Nights at the Bronx Zoo

For full event information, see website: [Pumpkin Nights - Bronx Zoo](https://www.bronxzoos.org/pumpkin-nights)

2023

Sensory Inclusive Experience

This event is designed to be a generally mild sensory experience.

For guests with sensory sensitivities who would like to avoid crowds, we recommend booking tickets on Thursday and Sundays, at the first time slot (6pm), and arriving to the park at 5:45pm.



**Pumpkin Nights is a new event this year
at the Bronx Zoo!**

**We will be outdoors, and it will be dark
since we will visit the zoo after sunset.**

In October, it can be cold at night at the zoo.

**I will need to dress for the weather and wear warm
clothes.**



When I get to the zoo, I will wait in line until it is my turn to go in.

I will stay with my group when I am in line.



**There will be a lot of things to look at.
We should remember to not touch the
pumpkins or lights.**



**There will be some sounds and music playing.
If any of the lights or noise bothers or upsets me, I
can let my group know and move to another area.**



If I think the noises at Pumpkin Nights might be hard for me, I can borrow a Sensory Bag from the zoo.

The bags can be checked out at the Fountain Circle ticket booth where we check in with our tickets.

Sensory Bags have noise-reducing headphones and fidget tools that can help me feel calm. We can use the bag during the event, and return it before we leave the zoo so other people can use it the next day.



**There may be a lot of people at the zoo, and
I might need to wait my turn to see the
pumpkin sculptures up close.**

**I will stay with my group and let them know
if I need space away from the crowd.**



**We will see many light sculptures and pumpkins
in the shape of animals. But we will not see
any of the real zoo animals at night.**

**All animal exhibits are closed at 4 o'clock,
to let the animals get a full night's rest.**

**I may miss them, but I know
this is best for the animals.**



It will be dark for most of the event.

**Some places might also have fog or
bubbles along the path.**

I will be sure to stay with my group.

I can let them know if I need help in the dark areas.



There will be pumpkin carvers there.

**Sometimes they use electric tools that make noise
when creating their pumpkins.**

**I will let someone from my group know if I need to
move away from this area.**



**Some food trucks will be parked in Fountain Circle.
We might want to have snacks or drinks after we are
done walking the pumpkin trail.**



**There will be an area to play some lawn games.
I will stay with my group and let them know if I want
to play a game.**



I will let my group know if I need to use a restroom.

There is a restroom building open at the Bronx River Parking lot.

There are porta potties available in Fountain Circle where the pumpkin trail start and ends.



**Bronx Zoo Pumpkin Nights is a great new way to
celebrate the season!**