



Hi Friend,

I talk a lot about "meeting the moment." In my world, this usually means being responsive to what my constituents are going through and using my position in the legislature to make their lives a little easier. But being a dad is also about meeting the moment. When I'm feeling overwhelmed by the pandemic, the election, the wildfires, the state of democracy, my kiddos remind me to come back to the present. They remind me with laughter and silliness to recognize and cherish all the little moments that will make up their childhoods.

Even with everything going on in the world, I'm committed to meeting the moment as a father to two goofy toddlers. For Emily and me, that means creating an environment where our kids can process how their lives have changed this year, while still

remembering to celebrate the good. And right now, that means figuring out how to do Halloween - 2020 edition!

In case you're in the same boat, read on for a handful of Covid-safe ways to celebrate this weekend. I bet we could all use a little fun.

All the best,



Halloween - 2020 Edition

Pumpkin Carving/Painting - An all-time favorite and Covid-safe activity! This one is classic, easy, and fun for all ages. My kids don't get to use carving tools yet, so in my household, we're all about the paint. Pumpkin decorating works well outdoors, so inviting a friend and carving while spread out on the lawn or in the park sounds like a great way to socialize at a distance.

"Ghosting" - I may have rolled my eyes when I first heard the term, but this is actually a cute idea. Ghosting is when you leave little goodie bags on your neighbors' lawns/doorsteps. I like this activity because the kiddos still dress up and walk around the block, but without interacting with too many other folks or ringing lots of door bells. Plus, added bonus whenever your activity comes with a lesson! Ghosting feels to me like the perfect opportunity to talk to the little ones about giving as a way to build community.

Drive-through Haunted Houses - Many of the options out there seem too scary for my own toddlers, but kids age 10+ are allowed at most venues. Some places are forging ahead with indoor haunted houses and timed ticket entry, but I'd stick to the drive-through venues. Check out [City of the Dead](#) for an idea of what a drive-through haunted house entails.

Spooky Hiking - We know that outdoors is the best place we can be to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Even though it's getting colder, we've got to stay smart about how we socialize. And who doesn't love a Fall hike? I was pleasantly surprised to come across this [article](#) in The Denver Post's The Know with a list of nearby hikes to check out this Halloween weekend. Mostly, these are just trails with a headstone or two along the way. But hey, brush up on a few ghost stories beforehand and you've set the scene for a creepy (and safe!) family adventure.



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