



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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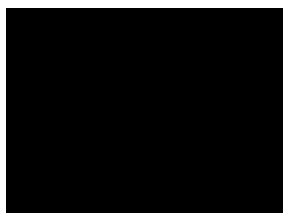
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# Navy Pier's **REALLY BIG** Halloween Party

*The Halloween Fun Starts Today! Master Pumpkin Artist Sculpts Massive Pumpkins on Fridays, Magician Dennis Watkins Performs Harry Houdini's Escape Trick on Saturdays, Sundays and Halloween Day, Free Dance Parties, Free Costume Contests, Free Trick-or-Treating, Free Fire Spinning Shows and MORE!*



CHICAGO – Navy Pier's **Really Big Halloween Party** begins today bringing families **new** events and plenty of Halloween fun! From animal rides and a petting zoo, to feats of magic and illusion, the Pier's Halloween party offers a frighteningly fun time for all ages. Navy Pier's Really Big Halloween Party runs **Fridays through Sundays, October 19 - 28**, and the party will, of course, continue on **Halloween, Wednesday, October 31**.

**New this year**, pumpkin carving savant, Steve Dahlke, will show off his skills on a nearly half-ton pumpkin each Friday from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Watch the pumpkins come to life as Dahlke carves them freehand in front of a live audience.

Award-winning magician Dennis Watkins returns this year performing some of Harry Houdini's original and astounding feats of magic. On Saturdays, Sundays and Halloween day, Dennis will attempt the greatest, most dangerous of all Harry Houdini's escapes, **the Water Chamber Escape**. Created and developed by Houdini for his touring shows, this escape required Houdini and now Watkins to be submerged upside-down in a tank of water in full view of the audience. The tank is locked from the outside with several padlocks. Once locked inside, the magician only has as much time as he has air in his lungs to escape.

Navy Pier's Really Big Halloween Party will offer guests free events day and night. The fun also includes:

- All-day Dance Party with a DJ and live bands in the decked-out Family Pavilion
- Houdini's Upside Down Escape Trick: Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays and Halloween at 7 p.m.
- World Famous pumpkin carver, Steve Dahlke, carves pumpkins that are nearly 500 lbs. on Fridays from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- *Pyrotechniq* fire spinning shows: 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily
- Street Performers at various locations around Navy Pier including human marionette shows, the showcase of the "Humanimals," Madame Rose the fortune teller with Rishi the floating head and more!
- Costume Contests with prizes on Saturday 10/27
  - Children Contest: 3 p.m.
  - Adult Contest: 7:30 p.m.
- Trick or Treating for children 12 and under, in costume:
  - Friday 10/26: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
  - Saturday 10/27: noon- 4 p.m.
  - Sunday 10/28: noon – 4 p.m.
  - Wednesday 10/31: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

#### **Really Big Halloween Party Hours:**

Fridays – Saturdays: Noon – 9 p.m.

Sundays and Halloween Wednesday: Noon – 8 p.m.

For a complete list of Navy Pier's Really Big Halloween Party events, please visit [www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com)

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A Chicago Landmark since 1916, Navy Pier has evolved from a freight passenger ship docking facility to the #1 tourist attraction in the Midwest, drawing more than eight million visitors annually. Navy Pier currently encompasses more than fifty acres of parks, gardens, shops, restaurants, family attractions and exhibit facilities, making it a tourists and visitors entertainment hub. For more information, visit our website at [www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com)