



This Halloween, throw a pirate-themed party for your little swashbucklers! Use our helpful tips and ideas for decorations, treats, and fun activities.

## DECORATING TIPS

**Setting the Scene** - Always make sure to create an exciting and inviting space in your backyard or home. Try some of these easy Halloween decorating tips and set the stage for an evening of rollicking fun.

- 1. Pumpkins Aplenty** - Pumpkins are a Halloween staple. Consider a variety of treatments besides the standard face carving. Give your jack-o-lanterns a pirate-inspired twist and toss on eye patches, bandanas, or hoop earrings to make your guests feel like they've landed in a pirate hideaway. Don't forget to check out our pumpkin stencils, they make pumpkin carving super easy and are sure to have your guests' oooh-ing and ahhh-ing.
- 2. Captain's Table** - Think of the Captain's Quarters on a pirate ship and you'll likely imagine a room with a long wooden table covered with elaborate candelabras and stacks of gold treasure. You can bring the Captain's Quarters to your dining room, here's how:
  - Cover a table with a dark red or black table runner with gold patterns or details.
  - Fill several glass or ceramic bowls with tropical fruits such as oranges, papayas, mangos, bananas, lemons and limes. Arrange these on the table with the highest stacks in the center.
  - Talk to friends and family, to borrow candelabras or candlestick holders. You can also visit your local thrift store or bargain outlet to find what you need. Make sure to pick up lots of long red and orange candles. Before the party, and under supervision, burn a few of the candles down over wax paper. As the wax melts, tilt the candles to create dramatic looking melt patterns. Be careful the wax can be very hot! Arrange your candles on the dining table with the tallest and most stately candles in the center and working out towards each end.
  - Drape the candelabras and bowls of fruit with costume jewelry and beaded necklaces that you can find at a party supply store. You can also spray paint poker chips gold to create the illusion of gold coins.



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**3. Hoist the Colors** - There is nothing more dramatic for your pirate party than a few strategically placed sheets and a pirate flag:



**Create a pirate flag** - Pirate flags can be of any color, size, shape or variety:

- Find a 3 x 5 foot piece of solid colored cloth around the house or from your fabric store. If you plan to make the traditional black flag with skull and crossbones, begin by using black material.
- Sew two ties onto one end of the flag – one at the top and one at the bottom – so it can be easily displayed.
- Using chalk, trace a design onto each side of the flag. The design should be identical on each side. For an easy design, use our pirate pumpkin stencil.
- With fabric paint, color in the design on one side of the flag. Allow it to dry completely (over several hours or overnight) before flipping the flag over and painting the other side.
- Attach the flag to a dowel rod, old broom handle, or post tilted at a 45 degree angle so the flag's design can be clearly seen.

**Sails Ho!** - Pirate ships are covered with sails. You can create the same feel in your backyard with clothes lines, sheets, and clothes pins:

- Tie several pieces of clothesline between the trees, jungle gym, or other sturdy items in your backyard. Be sure the lines are at least six feet from the ground.
- Drape the sheets over the lines and secure with clothes pins. (White, tan, or beige colored sheets work best!)
- With just a slight breeze, the children will be swash-buckling their way through the imaginary world of the ship's main deck!



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# TREATS

**Serve Up Some “Grog” Milkshakes** - Let your little pirates experiment in the kitchen under your supervision to make “grog” milkshakes. Pirates are famous for their steel stomachs, so give your crewmembers the chance to develop their own special recipes.



## Materials:

- Blender
- Spoons
- Jars or containers
- Labels and felt tip pen
- Paper and pencils
- Tall plastic cups
- Straws
- Stickers
- A special prize for the winner

## Ingredients:

- 2 gallon jug of milk
- Ice cream (chocolate and vanilla)
- Food coloring (green, blue, yellow)
- HERSHEY'S Chocolate Syrup
- HERSHEY'S Strawberry Syrup
- A variety of candies and chocolates from HERSHEY'S
- A variety of fresh fruit

## Preparation Before the Party:

1. Place your ingredients in separate clear jars or containers. Using an adhesive label and a felt tip pen, label each ingredient with a creepy name like “SEA MONSTER EYES” or “CAPTAIN’S SECRET SEASONING.”
2. Take ice cream out of freezer ten minutes prior to the activity so ice cream is softened.

## Making Grog Milkshakes:

1. Supply each pirate with a sheet of paper and a pencil. Explain that they are going to be devising milkshakes to try to impress a rival ship’s captain in order to avoid a fierce battle. The best tasting “grog” shake will win a special prize.
2. Tell each pirate that each “grog” shake should include ice cream, syrup, and at least two other ingredients of their choice.
3. Have them write their recipes on their recipe sheets and help each pirate mix up their “grog” with the blender.

## Saving the Ship!

1. Have a tasting contest after all pirates have made their “grog”. Each pirate should be given two stickers and be allowed to vote for their two favorite shakes by placing their stickers on the corresponding recipe sheets.
2. The shake to receive the most stickers is the winner and must be tried by the Captain! That’s you!



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# ACTIVITIES

Keep your crew content by designing some fun pirate inspired activities.

**Treasure Hunt** - What would a pirate gathering be without a treasure hunt? Set your scavengers off into the yard or around the house in search of **Captain Chocolate Tooth's Lost Treasure!**



## Materials:

- 1 bag of HERSHEY'S MINIATURES Chocolate Bars
- Paper bags for each guest
- Crayons or Markers
- Pirate Stickers printed on adhesive-backed paper
- a pair of scissors or a precision cutting tool

## Instructions:

1. Before the party print out our pirate stickers on to an adhesive-backed paper (For the best results we recommend Sticker Project Paper from Avery #3383). Using the scissors or a precision cutting tool, cut out the stickers, peel off the backing, and attach them onto the HERSHEY'S MINIATURES Chocolate Bars.
2. Before the party, print out our candy wraps. Using tape, wrap 15 HERSHEY'S MINIATURES Chocolate Bars.
3. Hide candy bars in easy-to-find places around your yard.
4. Give each child a paper treasure bag and allow them to decorate their bags with crayons or markers. Let them know their bag should include their name and some of their favorite things about being a pirate.
5. When their bags are done, read them the following story:

**“Captain Chocolate Tooth has been taken captive by the King’s fleet. Before he was taken, he cleverly hid 15 of his most prized possessions here in Pirate Cove: his most favorite snacks. These chocolate bars possess magical qualities. The pirate who finds the most candy bars and places them in his or her treasure bag in just ten minutes will be named Captain Chocolate Tooth’s replacement! Then we’ll have another surprise in store! Good luck, you silly land lubbers!”**

6. Set the children off in search of the chocolate bars. Keep up the excitement by reminding them how much time is left.
7. After ten minutes invite the pirates back to the table.
8. Tell them to keep their bags closed until it’s their turn to reveal their treasure. One by one, have each pirate open their bag and dump their treasure on the table.



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- Count together the number of candies found. The child with the most will be named Captain Chocolate Tooth's replacement. Give that child a special prize, like an eye patch a costume ring or a treasure chest of a variety of candies and chocolates from HERSHEY'S!



### When Hiding the Treasure, Do the Following:

- Hide the candies at a child's eye level
- Hide some candy bars in plain sight, like among a bowl of other candies or on window sills.
- Hide other candy bars in easy to locate places, like inside carved pumpkins, on the top of the slide, or under overturned party cups.
- Use the age of your guests to determine how easy or how hard the hiding places should be.

**Write a Pirate Song** - Children love to be creative and pirates love to sing. Give them the full pirate experience by hosting a Pirate Song competition.

### Materials:

- Paper
- Pencils
- 2 Cloth bags
- 6 household items, such as a spatula, a bar of soap, a can opener, etc...
- 6 different candies and chocolates from HERSHEY'S
- Prizes for the winning group

### Instructions:

1. Divide you pirates into teams of four.
2. Tell the pirates that a terrible sea monster is approaching the ship and music is the only thing that soothes the savage beast.
3. Their job is to choose one item from each bag and write a pirate song to calm the sea monster before it destroys the ship.
4. The pirates will need to write down their new song and be prepared to perform it for their fellow pirates. The best song will receive a special treat.

### Variations:

- For younger pirates, have them write their song lyrics to a song they all know well – such as Happy Birthday, Yankee Doodle, or other easy song.
- For older pirates, let them choose any song as the basis for their new song.



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