

Greetings Arctic Warriors, I'm here to share information about two great, COVID-friendly Halloween events for our JBER families.

As a mom, I really wanted to have something safe and responsible that my children could look forward to. Anything we could do for Halloween would help with the sacrifices a lot of our families are making with virtual school, curtailed or canceled sports seasons, missed family reunions...you name it.

As your installation commander, I have to ensure we take into account the reality of the health situation we currently are experiencing locally in Anchorage and on the installation.

I'm happy to share that on Friday, Oct. 30 from Noon- 7 pm, FSS is sponsoring a Spooky Forest at Eagleleglen Fitness Park – this is by sign up only. This will be a safe, distanced walk that lasts about 20 minutes, through the Spooky Forest path. Families are asked to sign up for this event, costumes are encouraged and make sure to bring your cameras. For sign up information, keep an eye on this Facebook page and over on JBERLife!

On Saturday, Oct. 31 from 3-5 pm, there will be a special drive thru "Trunk or Treat" event at Warehouse Loop, near the Central Issue Facility. Families do not need to sign up for this event. There are 32 slots of available for units/organizations to register their trunk and volunteers are definitely welcome to help.

Please note both these events are open only to DOD ID cardholders with access to the installation. All participants must adhere to public health guidelines, wear cloth face coverings/masks and maintain physical distance as appropriate.

You may be asking why these events are allowed with the installation being in HPCON Charlie. As I've mentioned before, HPCON Charlie is based on current conditions. As we continue to fight through the COVID pandemic, we want to ensure our families can still safely participate in activities that are fun and support family wellness. While traditional house-to-house trick-or-treating won't take place this year on the installation, rather than cancel all activities, we're providing these two COVID-friendly events so our JBER families can enjoy Halloween safely and responsibly.

Additionally, these activities are in line with those being hosted by our neighbors to the north at Fort Wainwright and Eielson AFB, both who also have additional COVID restrictions in place.

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Halloween this year, I ask that you do so smartly and responsibly for yourselves, your family, your neighbors and our community. Please adhere to PH guidelines on the installation and in the local community. If you feel unwell, stay home! Seek medical attention, get tested and please do not enter the workplace. Together, we can prevent the spread of COVID by being diligent and proactive. Thank you.