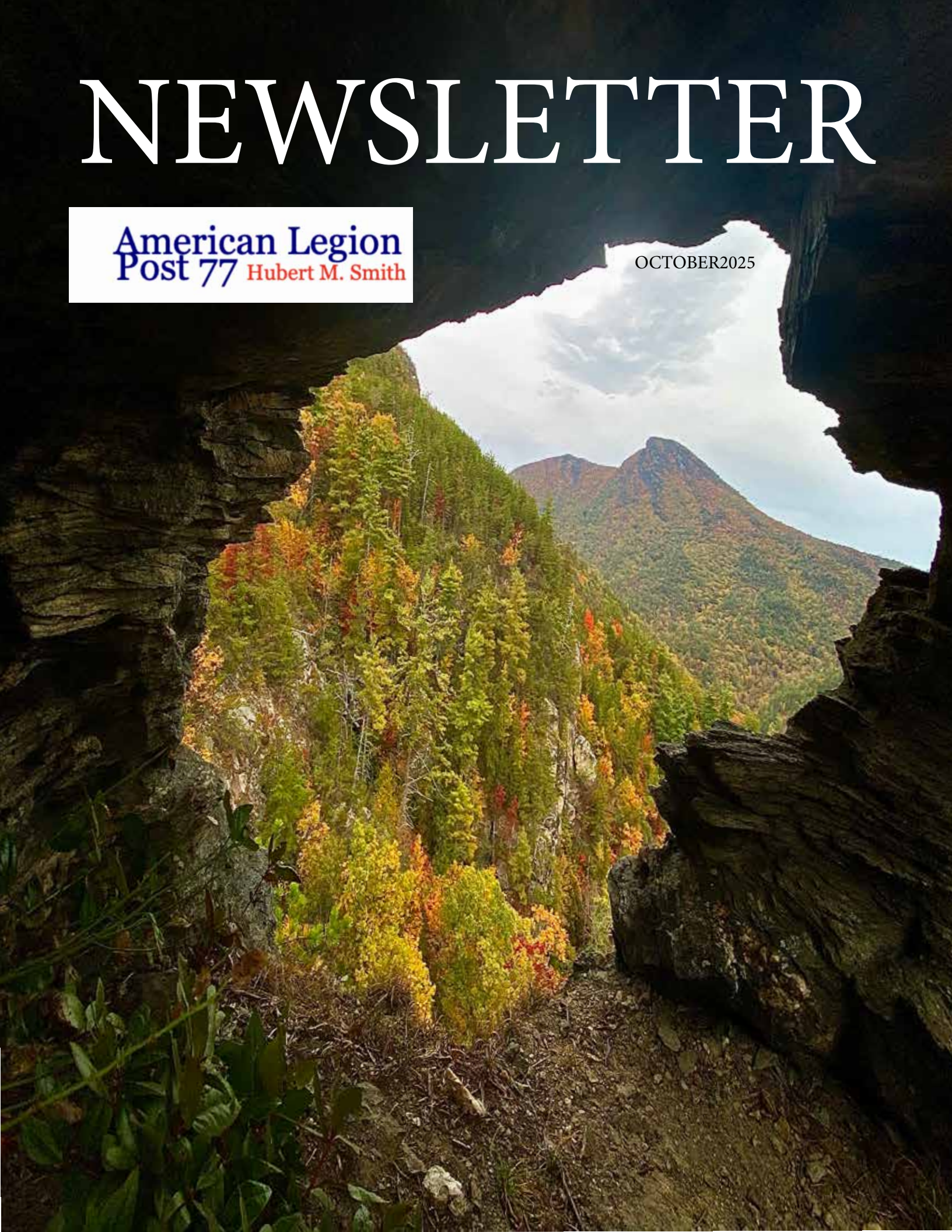


NEWSLETTER

American Legion
Post 77 Hubert M. Smith

OCTOBER 2025



American Legion Post 77 October Calendar Highlights

October 02 Auxiliary Unit 77 Meeting - Starts 7pm

October 07 Executive Board Meeting - Starts 7pm

October 09 General Membership Post 77 Meeting - Starts 7pm

October 19 SAL Squadron 77 Meeting - 9:30am

October 23-25 Department NC Fall Conference - Raliegh, NC

October 24 Legion Riders Meeting - Starts 7pm



Dept Commander Asheville VAMC visit and Post 77 Canteen 05Sept2025: Presenting Check from NC Legion Family to VAMC-A



Dept Cmdr

Past Dept Cmdr



Monthly and Quarterly Publications

Monthly and Quarterly Printed Publications of News Summary available at:



legion77.org

DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

October 23-25 2025 Raleigh, NC

nclegion.org for more details



Annual Halloween Event:

_____ October, 2025

TIME: _____ to _____

Location: 216 4th Ave W
Hendersonville, NC 28739

UNIT 77

Celebrating the U.S. Navy's 250th Birthday



A Proud Legacy: The U.S. Navy's History

On **October 13, 1775**, the Continental Congress authorized the establishment of the Continental Navy, marking the birth of what would become the United States Navy. This fledgling naval force, designed to disrupt British commerce with privateers and small ships like frigates and schooners, played a critical role during the American Revolution. After the war, the Navy was briefly disbanded, but the U.S. Constitution empowered Congress to “provide and maintain a navy,” leading to the formal creation of the Department of the Navy on April 30, 1798. In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt designated October 13 as the official Navy Birthday, a tradition celebrated annually to honor its heritage and inspire pride among sailors. Today, with over 330,000 active-duty sailors, 57,000 reservists, and a fleet of hundreds of ships, the U.S. Navy stands as the world's most advanced naval force, projecting power and ensuring global security.

Diverse Careers in the U.S. Navy

The U.S. Navy offers a wide array of career paths, each vital to its mission of defending national interests and maintaining maritime dominance. Here are some key career fields:

- **Surface Warfare Officers and Enlisted Sailors:** These professionals operate and maintain ships like destroyers, cruisers, and aircraft carriers, ensuring readiness for combat and humanitarian missions.
- **Naval Aviators and Flight Crew:** Pilots and aircrew operate advanced aircraft, from fighter jets to helicopters, conducting reconnaissance, combat, and search-and-rescue operations.
- **Submarine Service:** Officers and enlisted personnel in the “Silent Service” manage nuclear-powered submarines, conducting stealth operations and strategic deterrence.

- 
- **Navy SEALs and Special Warfare:** Elite forces trained for unconventional warfare, counterterrorism, and special operations in diverse environments.
 - **Medical Corps:** Doctors, nurses, and corpsmen provide healthcare to sailors, Marines, and their families, often in challenging conditions at sea or overseas.
 - **Engineering and Technology:** From nuclear propulsion to cybersecurity, these roles focus on maintaining cutting-edge systems and infrastructure.
 - **Logistics and Supply:** These sailors ensure the Navy's global operations are supported with supplies, fuel, and equipment.
- With opportunities for education, leadership, and global travel, a Navy career offers unparalleled rewards. As President John F. Kennedy said, "I can imagine no more rewarding a career... 'I served in the United States Navy.'"

A Birthday Salute from American Legion Post 77

On behalf of American Legion Post 77, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the U.S. Navy on its 250th Birthday! Your unwavering commitment to protecting our nation's freedom, projecting strength, and serving communities worldwide inspires us all. From the early days of the Continental Navy to today's unparalleled naval force, your legacy of courage and sacrifice is a cornerstone of American resilience. We honor all sailors—past, present, and future—for their dedication. Happy 250th Birthday, U.S. Navy! Fair winds and following seas!

Join Us in Celebration

American Legion Post 77 invites our community to join us in celebrating the Navy's milestone. Share your Navy stories or connect with us to honor our veterans. Together, let's salute the men and women who make the Navy a symbol of strength and service.

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- "World's Most Powerful Navy Celebrates 249 Years of Service." Stars and Stripes, 10 Oct. 2024, www.stripes.com. Accessed 28 Apr. 2025.

Navy Day: A Tribute to Maritime Strength

Navy Day, observed annually on October 27, is a time to honor the United States Navy's storied legacy and its vital contributions to national security. Established in 1922 by the Navy League of the United States, October 27 was chosen to commemorate President Theodore Roosevelt's birthday, recognizing his pivotal role in expanding and modernizing the Navy during his presidency (1901–1909).

While the official Navy Birthday is celebrated on October 13, marking the Continental Congress's authorization of the Continental Navy in 1775, Navy Day serves as a public celebration to highlight the Navy's achievements and its enduring commitment to protecting America's interests at sea and beyond. From defending freedom during conflicts like World War II to providing humanitarian aid in global crises, the Navy's global presence—over 330,000 active-duty sailors, 57,000 reservists, and a fleet of advanced ships and aircraft—ensures maritime security and stability worldwide.

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GO NAVY!



HONOR GUARD

AMERICAN LEGION POST 77

828-693-3922



HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS IN AMERICA: A SPOOKY CELEBRATION

By Grok3

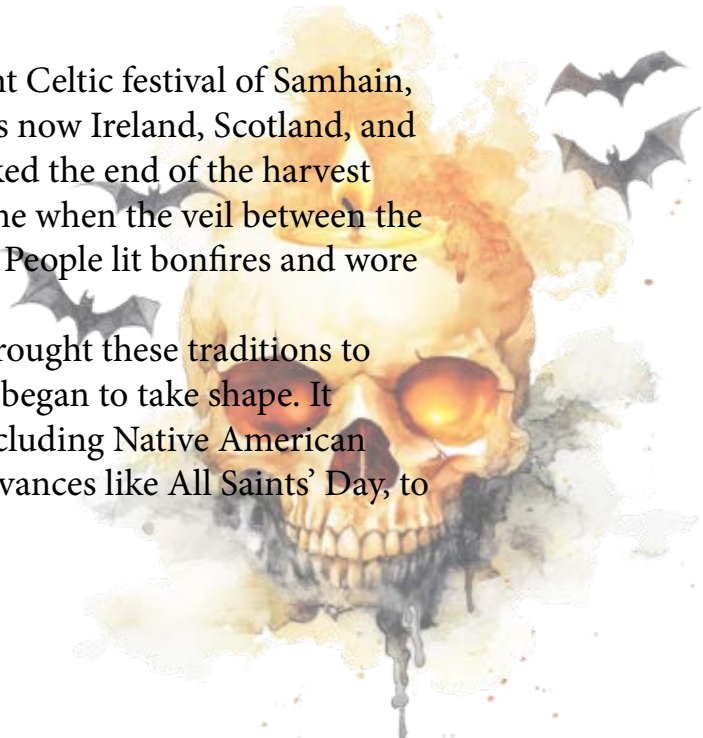


Welcome to our special Halloween edition! As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, Americans across the country prepare for one of the most beloved and eerie holidays of the year: Halloween. Rooted in ancient traditions and shaped by centuries of cultural evolution, Halloween in America is a vibrant mix of costumes, candy, and community spirit. Let's dive into the traditions that make this holiday so spooktacular!

The Origins of Halloween

Halloween traces its roots to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, celebrated over 2,000 years ago in what is now Ireland, Scotland, and parts of Northern France. Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, a time when the veil between the living and the dead was believed to thin. People lit bonfires and wore costumes to ward off roaming spirits.

When Irish and Scottish immigrants brought these traditions to America in the 19th century, Halloween began to take shape. It blended with other cultural practices, including Native American harvest celebrations and Christian observances like All Saints' Day, to become the holiday we know today.



Trick-or-Treating: A Sweet Tradition

No Halloween is complete without trick-or-treating, the quintessential American pastime where children dress up in costumes and go door-to-door collecting candy. This tradition likely evolved from European customs like “souling,” where people offered prayers for the dead in exchange for food, and “guising,” where children performed tricks for treats.

In the early 20th century, trick-or-treating became widespread in the U.S., fueled by suburban growth and a post-World War II baby boom. Today, kids don costumes ranging from superheroes to ghosts, shouting “Trick or treat!” for handfuls of candy. Americans spend over \$3 billion annually on Halloween candy, with favorites like Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups and Skittles topping the charts.

Costumes: From Ghouls to Pop Culture Icons

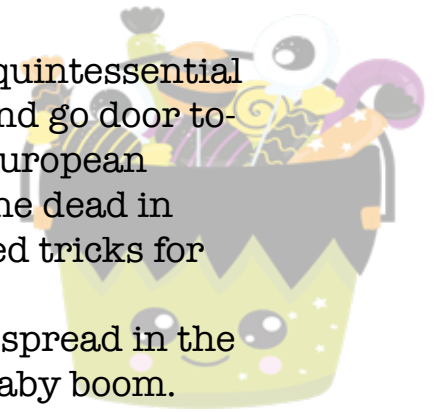
Costumes are the heart of Halloween, allowing people of all ages to transform into someone—or something—else for the night. Early American Halloween costumes were homemade, often depicting witches, ghosts, or skeletons. By the mid-20th century, massproduced costumes hit the market, and today’s options reflect everything from horror movie villains to trending pop culture icons.

In 2025, expect costumes inspired by recent blockbusters and viral moments—think characters from the latest superhero films or memes dominating social media. Adults join the fun with costume parties and contests at bars and community centers. Whether spooky or silly, costumes let Americans unleash their creativity.

Pumpkins and Jack-o’-Lanterns

Nothing says Halloween like a glowing jack-o’-lantern on a front porch. This tradition stems from an Irish folktale about “Stingy Jack,” a man doomed to wander with a carved turnip lantern. In America, pumpkins—abundant and easier to carve—replaced turnips, and by the 19th century, jack-o’-lanterns became a Halloween staple.

Today, pumpkin carving is an art form, with designs ranging from classic spooky faces to intricate pop culture tributes. Families visit pumpkin patches to pick the perfect gourd, and competitions showcase stunning creations. Pumpkin spice lattes and pies remain seasonal favorites, adding flavor to the festivities.



Haunted Houses and Spooky Attractions

For thrill-seekers, Halloween means haunted houses, corn mazes, and spooky attractions. The first commercial haunted houses appeared in the U.S. in the 1970s, and now thousands operate nationwide, from small community setups to elaborate theme park experiences like Universal's Halloween Horror Nights.

In 2025, immersive haunts are trending, with some offering “extreme” experiences where participants might face simulated scares (with consent). For a milder fright, families enjoy hayrides and ghost tours that bring local legends to life. These attractions blend jump scares, special effects, and creepy actors for heart-pounding fun.

Halloween Today: A Community Celebration

Halloween is a cultural juggernaut, with Americans spending nearly \$12 billion annually on costumes, decorations, and candy. Beyond the commercial buzz, it's a time for community bonding. Schools host Halloween parades, neighborhoods organize trunk-or-treat events, and cities throw festivals with live music and costume contests.

The holiday embraces inclusivity, with sensory-friendly trick-or-treating for kids with special needs and pet costume parades for furry friends. Whether carving pumpkins, braving a haunted house, or handing out candy, Halloween brings people together in a spirit of fun and fright.

Get Involved!

Ready to join the Halloween fun? Here are a few ways to celebrate:

- **Carve a jack-o'-lantern:** Grab a pumpkin and get creative with your design.
- **Host a costume party:** Invite friends for a night of spooky games and treats.
- **Visit a haunted attraction:** Check local listings for haunted houses or ghost tours near you.
- **Trick-or-treat safely:** Stick to well-lit areas, check candy, and travel in groups.

From all of us, have a happy and haunting Halloween!

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Stay Safe This Halloween: Tips for a Spooky and Secure Celebration



Halloween is a thrilling time of costumes, candy, and community fun, but with all the excitement, safety can sometimes take a backseat. From trick-or-treating to haunted attractions, ensuring a safe Halloween is essential for kids, adults, and even pets. This article explores key Halloween safety tips, complete with a practical checklist to keep your festivities fright-free in all the right ways.

Trick-or-Treating Safety

Trick-or-treating is the highlight of Halloween for many kids, but navigating neighborhoods at night requires caution. Here are some tips to keep young ghouls and goblins safe:

- **Supervise Young Children:** Kids under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. For older kids, establish a route and check-in times.
- **Stay Visible:** Equip costumes with reflective tape, glow sticks, or flashlights. Choose bright or light-colored costumes for better visibility.
- **Stick to Safe Areas:** Use sidewalks, cross at crosswalks, and avoid dark alleys or unfamiliar neighborhoods.
- **Check Candy:** Inspect all treats before consumption. Discard unwrapped, homemade, or suspicious items.

In 2023, the National Safety Council reported over 6,000 pedestrian injuries on Halloween, many involving children. Planning a safe route and ensuring visibility can significantly reduce risks.

Costume Safety

Costumes let us transform for the night, but poorly designed ones can pose hazards. Keep these tips in mind:

- **Ensure Proper Fit:** Costumes should allow free movement. Avoid oversized shoes, long capes, or dangling accessories that could cause trips.
- **Choose Flame-Resistant Materials:** Look for labels indicating flame resistance, especially for costumes near candles or jack-o'-lanterns.
- **Opt for Face Paint Over Masks:** Masks can obstruct vision or breathing. If masks are worn, ensure eye holes are large enough for clear sight.
- **Test Accessories:** Swords, wands, or other props should be soft and flexible to prevent injuries.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission notes that costumerelated injuries, like burns or falls, spike during Halloween. A quick costume check can prevent mishaps.

Home and Decor Safety

Whether you're hosting trick-or-treaters or decorating for a party, make your home a safe haunt:

- **Clear Pathways:** Remove obstacles like garden hoses, bikes, or wet leaves from walkways to prevent trips.
- **Use Safe Lighting:** Replace candles in jack-o'-lanterns with battery-operated lights to reduce fire risks.
- **Secure Decorations:** Ensure heavy or hanging decorations are stable and won't fall on visitors.
- **Keep Pets Safe:** Pets can get stressed by crowds or costumes. Keep them in a quiet, secure area away from the door.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that decorations are the first item ignited in over 800 home fires annually during Halloween season. Swapping candles for LED lights is a simple way to stay safe.



Driving on Halloween

Halloween night sees a surge in pedestrian activity, making driver awareness critical. Follow these guidelines:

- **Drive Slowly:** Reduce speed in residential areas, especially between 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., peak trick-or-treating hours.
- **Avoid Distractions:** Put down phones and stay alert for kids darting across streets.
- **Yield to Pedestrians:** Be extra cautious at crosswalks and corners where visibility may be low.
- **Don't Drink and Drive:** Halloween parties often involve alcohol. Designate a sober driver or use a rideshare service.

AAA data shows that Halloween is one of the deadliest nights for pedestrian fatalities, with a 43% higher risk than the average evening. Drivers play a key role in keeping streets safe.

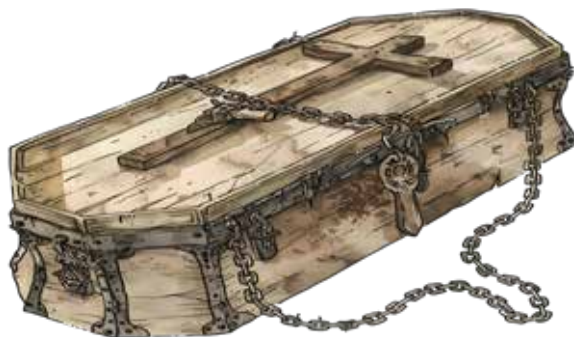
Haunted Attractions and Party Safety

Haunted houses and Halloween parties are thrilling but can present unique risks:

- **Know Your Limits:** Haunted attractions can be intense. Check ratings or warnings for age or health restrictions, especially for those with heart conditions or anxiety.
- **Follow Rules:** Adhere to attraction guidelines, like staying on marked paths or avoiding running, to prevent injuries.
- **Party Responsibly:** Monitor alcohol consumption at Halloween parties. Provide non-alcoholic options and ensure guests have safe transportation.
- **Stay in Groups:** Whether at a haunt or a party, stick with friends and avoid wandering alone in unfamiliar areas.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasizes that group activities, when planned with safety in mind, reduce the risk of accidents or incidents.



Halloween Safety Checklist

Before heading out, run through this checklist to ensure a safe Halloween:

- **Costumes:** Check for flame-resistant materials, proper fit, and visibility (reflective tape, glow sticks, or flashlights).
- **Trick-or-Treating Plan:** Set a route, assign adult supervision for young kids, and agree on a return time.
- **Home Prep:** Clear walkways, secure decorations, and use battery-operated lights instead of candles.
- **Candy Inspection:** Have a plan to check all treats before eating.
- **Driving:** Commit to distraction-free, sober driving, especially in residential areas.
- **Group Safety:** Ensure kids and adults stay in groups, with emergency contact info handy.
- **Pet Safety:** Arrange a quiet, secure space for pets away from Halloween chaos.

A Safe and Spooky Halloween

Halloween is all about fun, frights, and making memories, but a little preparation goes a long way in keeping everyone safe. By planning costumes, routes, and home setups with safety in mind, you can focus on the thrills without the chills of accidents or injuries. Share these tips with your community, and let's make Halloween 2025 a hauntingly safe celebration!

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4th Thursday
Each Month

7pm

216 4th Ave W
Hendersonville, NC 28739



Fall Fire Safety: Protecting Your Home Inside and Out

As autumn brings cooler temperatures, vibrant foliage, and cozy traditions, it also introduces unique fire hazards. From indoor heating to outdoor leaf piles, fall activities require vigilance to keep your home and family safe. This article outlines essential fire safety tips for the season, with comprehensive checklists for both inside and outside your home.

Indoor Fire Safety

Fall often means firing up heaters, lighting candles, and decorating for holidays like Halloween and Thanksgiving. These activities increase fire risks if not managed properly.

Indoor Fire Safety Checklist:

- **Test Smoke Alarms:** Ensure smoke alarms are installed on every level, inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas. Test monthly and replace batteries if needed.
- **Inspect Heating Systems:** Have furnaces, fireplaces, and chimneys professionally inspected and cleaned annually to prevent carbon monoxide buildup and chimney fires.
- **Use Space Heaters Safely:** Keep portable heaters at least 3 feet from flammable materials like curtains or furniture. Turn them off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- **Practice Candle Safety:** Place candles on stable surfaces, away from decorations, curtains, or pets. Consider flameless LED candles as a safer alternative.
- **Check Electrical Cords:** Inspect cords for fraying or damage. Avoid overloading outlets or running cords under rugs, which can overheat.
- **Create an Escape Plan:** Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with two exits per room. Ensure everyone knows the designated meeting point outside.
- **Keep Fire Extinguishers Accessible:** Have multipurpose fire extinguishers in key areas like the kitchen and garage. Check pressure gauges and ensure family members know how to use them (PASS technique: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep).



Outdoor Fire Safety

Outdoor activities like bonfires, leaf burning, and holiday decorations pose significant fire risks in the fall, especially in dry conditions.

Outdoor Fire Safety Checklist:

- **Clear Debris:** Remove dry leaves, branches, and other flammable materials from around your home, roof, and gutters to reduce fire fuel.
- **Maintain a Defensible Space:** Keep a 30-foot clear zone around your home by trimming grass, pruning trees, and removing dead vegetation.
- **Use Fire Pits Safely:** Place fire pits at least 10 feet from structures, overhangs, or trees. Never leave fires unattended, and keep a hose or bucket of water nearby.
- **Follow Local Burn Regulations:** Check with local authorities before burning leaves or yard waste. Use approved burn barrels and avoid burning on windy or dry days.
- **Store Fuel Properly:** Keep gasoline, propane, and other flammable liquids in approved containers, stored away from heat sources and living spaces.
- **Inspect Outdoor Lighting:** Ensure outdoor Halloween or holiday lights are rated for exterior use and free of damaged cords or bulbs.
- **Supervise Outdoor Cooking:** Keep grills at least 10 feet from your home and never leave them unattended. Clean grease buildup to prevent flare-ups.

Fall is a time for warmth and celebration, but it demands proactive fire safety measures. Regularly review and implement the indoor and outdoor checklists to protect your home. Stay informed about local fire regulations and educate your family on safety practices. A little preparation can ensure a fire-free autumn.

Works Cited

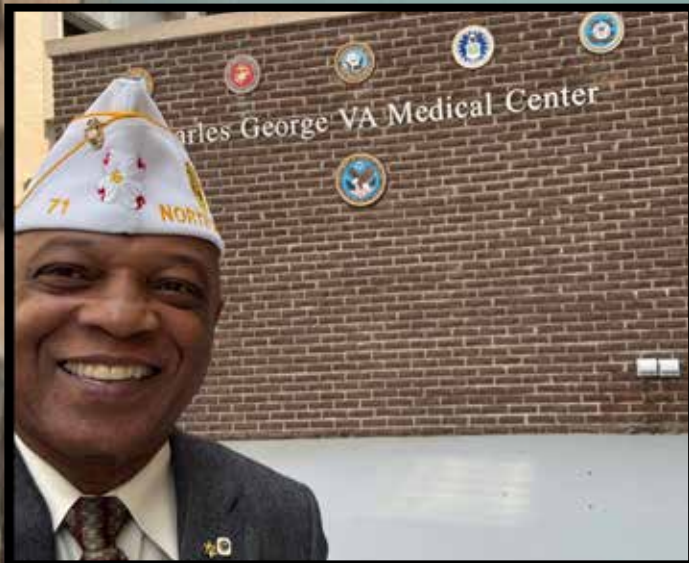
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Department NC American Legion Family Official Visit to Charles George VAMC (WNC VA)



Postitive Discussions on improving a VA system we love for Veterans today and future



Department NC Leadership
American Legion w/ Charles George Statue



Post 77 Friday Night Dinner

Album 2025 Post 77 Hendersonville Installment

Devell "Bo" Durham Jr. - North Carolina Department Commander added 16 photos and 2 videos — at American Legion Post NC 77.
1d · Hendersonville, NC

Hendersonville Post 77: Where Service Meets Steak on Friday red day. After a powerful visit to the Asheville VA Medical Center, I made my way to Hendersonville's Post 77—where I learned that every Friday is prime rib or tenderloin steak night. Who was I to say no?

The meal? Phenomenal. The hospitality? Unmatched. The gifts from Post 77's leadership? Generous and heartfelt.

I left with a full belly, a grateful heart, and a gift bag that could barely contain the kindness. That visit was like no other—rich in fellowship, flavor, and inspiration.

As I drove away, one thought kept rising: North Carolina Wins. #IENCWin #2025Faithful #2024Foundation #2024BoDPsalms118-8 #GetSome #2023Stretch #2023Noexcuses #2022AddValue #ServantLeaderBo #BoBullDurham #SgtMajDurhamD #ColemanDurhamFamily #CommanderOnTheMove





American Legion Post 77

Hubert M. Smith

October Email Briefing

Meetings

October 2- Auxiliary
October 7- Executive Board
October 9- General Membership 7pm
October 18- Sons of the American Legion
October 20- Marine Corps League
October 23-25- Fall Conference in Raleigh
October 30- American Legion Riders Chapter 77

Canteen Events

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29- Bingo
October 4- Tuxedo Junction 7-10pm
October 16- Free Veterans Breakfast Buffet
October 26- Barn Yard Bingo
October 31- Halloween Party
November 1- Fine Line 7-10pm

Canteen Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9am-10pm
Friday: 9am-1am
Saturday: 9am-10pm
Sunday: 12pm-8pm

Henderson County

Honor Guard

The Henderson County Honor Guard visited U.S. Navy Veteran Richard Mason, One of the remaining four WWII veterans in Henderson County, on September 18.



American Legion Riders

The American Legion Riders Chapter 77 held their Bike Night September 27th.



Henderson County Honor Guard

Members of the Henderson County Honor Guard participate in the Honor Flight event September 27. From left: Jim Keithley, Joe Stancar, and Dan Greene.





Hunting Safety

As hunting season approaches, prioritizing safety ensures everyone enjoys the outdoors responsibly. This issue covers essential safety practices, a comprehensive checklist, and tips to keep you and your fellow hunters safe.

Why Hunting Safety Matters

Hunting is an exhilarating way to connect with nature, but it comes with risks. In 2023, the International Hunter Education Association reported over 1,000 hunting-related incidents in the U.S., with many preventable through proper safety measures. Firearm mishandling, lack of visibility, and inadequate preparation are common causes. Let's dive into how to stay safe this season.

Safety Spotlight: Avoiding Common Mistakes

One of the most frequent hunting accidents involves misidentification—mistaking another hunter for game. In 2022, 15% of hunting incidents involved failure to confirm the target, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Always use binoculars to verify your target and wear blaze orange to stand out. Another common issue is falling from tree stands, which accounts for nearly 30% of injuries. A harness and regular equipment checks can prevent these incidents.

Hunting is a rewarding tradition, but safety must come first. By following these guidelines and using the checklist, you're taking steps to protect yourself, others, and the environment. Stay vigilant, stay prepared, and enjoy a safe season in the great outdoors!

Happy Hunting!

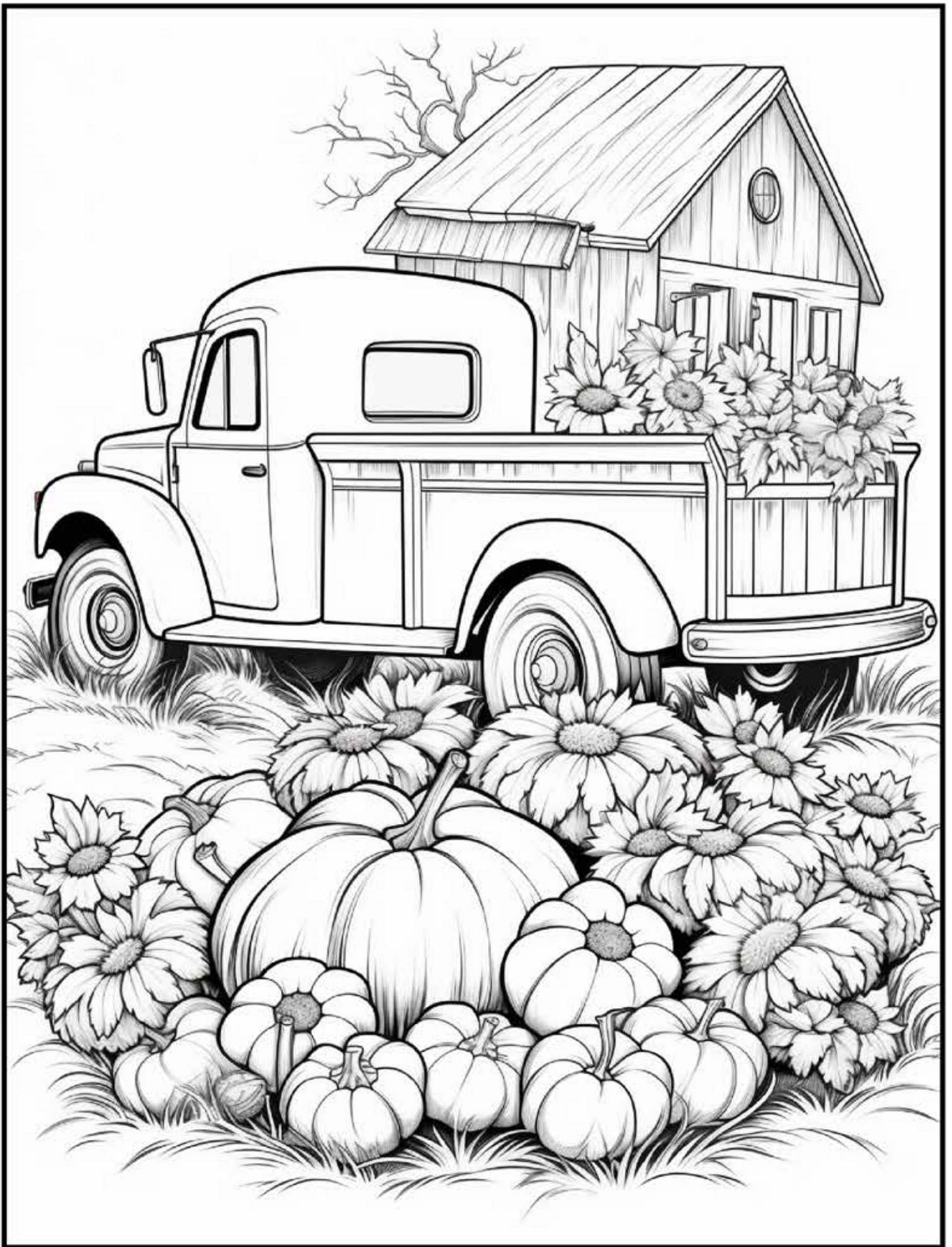
Key Hunting Safety Tips

- Firearm Safety First
- Always treat firearms as loaded.
- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Only load when ready to shoot and unload when not in use.
- Know your target and what lies beyond it.
- Wear High-Visibility Clothing
- Blaze orange or fluorescent colors make you visible to other hunters.
- Avoid wearing colors like brown or white that blend with game animals.
- Plan and Communicate
- Share your hunting plan, including location and expected return time, with a trusted contact.
- Carry a charged phone, radio, or GPS device for emergencies.
- Know Your Environment
- Study the terrain and weather forecast.
- Be aware of local wildlife and potential hazards like uneven ground or water bodies.
- Stay Physically Prepared
- Hunting can be strenuous. Ensure you're fit for long treks and carrying gear.
- Carry enough water, food, and first-aid supplies.
- Tree Stand Safety
- Inspect stands for wear and tear before use.
- Use a full-body harness and stay tethered to the tree at all times.

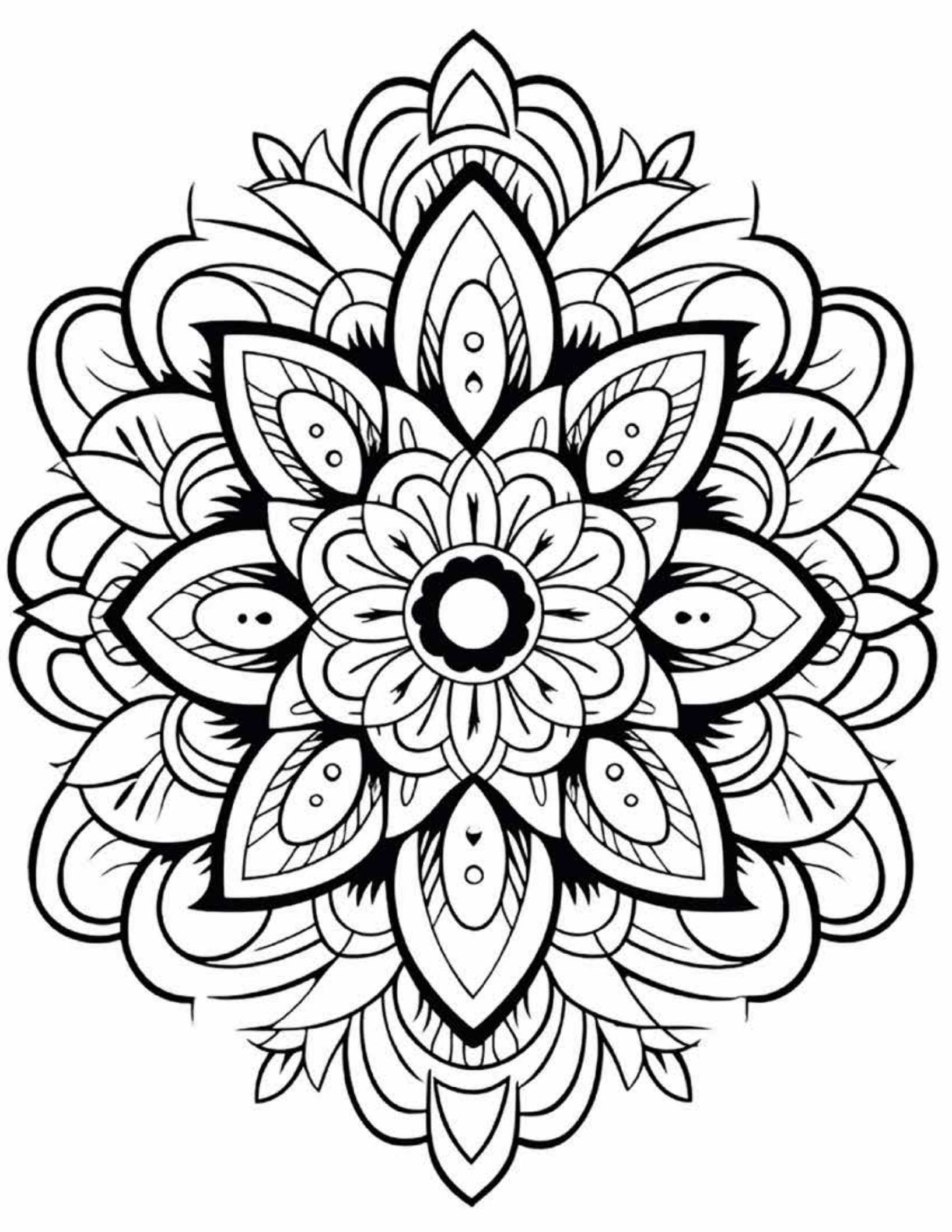
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alfvbarmanager@gmail.com



828-693-3922



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Hendersonville, NC

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