

# GET TO KNOW THE...

The Asbury Park Zombie Walk will officially kick off the Halloween season in Asbury Park on Saturday, October 2nd. This year we celebrate 13 years of brains on the Boardwalk.



## What is a Zombie Walk?

A zombie walk is an organized public gathering of people who dress up like zombies and then make their way around city streets in an orderly fashion for fun.

## The Asbury Park Zombie Walk

The first Asbury Park Zombie Walk was conceived, organized and produced by **Jason Meehan** in the Fall of 2008. Jason had heard stories of zombie walks in other cities around the world, but found none within the Garden State. As a lifelong horror fan and a proud New Jerseyan, it was clear that he'd have create one himself - right in his own backyard. The event grew like a true-to-life zombie outbreak, from a small gathering, to a genuine zombie horde, and has earned the Guinness World Record for Largest Gathering of Zombies twice along the way.

In 2015, the event was initially cancelled due to the increasing difficulty of hosting tens of thousands of zombies, but anyone who's ever seen a zombie movie could have predicted that it wouldn't die that easily. The Zombie Walk clawed its way out of the grave thanks to another local institution. **John** and **Mary McGillion** of Johnny Mac's House of Spirits hated to see a beloved Asbury Park tradition die, so they purchased the event and pitched in to run it alongside founder Jason Meehan and the Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce.

2020 brought a fresh challenge in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual shamble down the Boardwalk was cancelled, but Zombies still shared their spooky spirit in a Virtual Zombie Walk video compilation.

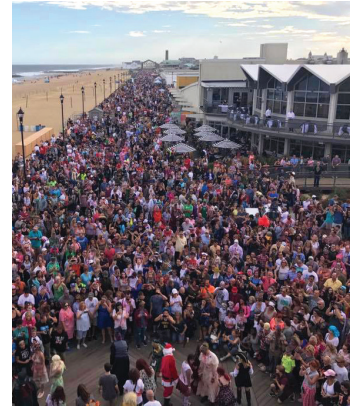
The Asbury Park Zombie Walk is consistently one of the Garden State's largest Halloween-season gatherings. Everyone is invited to join in for a day of thrills, chills and laughter throughout the community. Zombies of all ages participate in this family-friendly event. **Best of all, the Zombie Walk is completely FREE!**

**Please note: Plan to arrive in makeup. Due to COVID-19 we WILL NOT be offering the opportunity to purchase zombie makeovers. Social distancing from other groups of zombies is strongly encouraged. The zombie outbreak may be imaginary, but the pandemic is real. Zombie Walk themed face masks will be available for purchase.**

**Additionally, every attendee is welcome, as is their costuming creativity, but we must ask that everyone leave ALL prop weapons at home. Our all-inclusive event is safe, lighthearted fun.**

## Zombie Walk Events

**Starting at 1:00 PM**, the official Info Booth and Merchandise Stand will open right along the Boardwalk on the 4th Avenue Green Space. All day long, costumed zombies (and the horror fans who love them) gather on the Asbury Park Boardwalk and then, **at 4:00 the Zombie Walk begins!** From the front of the Convention



Hall, zombies will lurch down the Boardwalk towards the Carousel House, where they will turn and finally invade the Downtown - shambling from Cookman, to Mattison, to Main. When the walk is over, zombies are turned loose to enjoy the music and festivities Downtown. Johnny Mac's House of Spirits will be hosting the **Official Zombie Walk After Party!**

Though we're scaling back on events in order to maintain social distance and crowd safety, the Zombie Walk still has more to offer than just the walk itself. Leading up to the main event, attendees will have the chance to participate in a few Asbury Park Zombie Walk traditions.

**At 3:30**, the Zombie Walk's signature **Thriller Dance** will take place outside the Paramount Theatre.

The day will also include competitive zombie-ing in the form of a **Zombie Costume Contest**. Costumed competitors must be on the Boardwalk **at 3:00**. Our judges will wandering the Boardwalk, choosing finalists for Best Young Zombie, Best Adult, Best Couple and Best Group costumes. Zombies may also compete for a NEW CATEGORY THIS YEAR! The "Best Masked Zombie" costume will incorporate a protective face covering into the costume. Your mask may be integrated into the costume or a decorative design as long as it covers your face (and keeps you safe from COVID-19!). **At 6:00**, Johnny Mac's House of Spirits will host the final judging and present both cash prizes and the prestigious new golden zombie trophy to some of the day's most impressive dead.

One of the Zombie Walk's best loved traditions is finding a way to use our numbers for a good cause. This year our friends **Move For Hunger** are back with their collection bins. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to our Info/ Merchandise Booth on the Boardwalk on the 2nd Avenue Green Space. Move For Hunger donations go directly to our local Food Banks. You can find more info on the organization and what to donate at **MoveForHunger.org**.