

Fire Pit Life

CHEAT SHEET: Tips for A Pumpkin Carving Party

What You'll Need:

- Pumpkins
- Stencils
- Carving Tools
- Garbage Bowls (for Pumpkin pulp and seeds)
- Bowls of water (to rinse hands)
- Table for carving
- Inexpensive plastic table cloth (optional)
- Paper towels
- Food & Drink

The pumpkins, carving tools and stencils can either be supplied by the host or brought by the guests.

I find it's fun to pick out your own pumpkins. Things to keep in mind when choosing a pumpkin: the bigger the pumpkin the thicker the skin which means deeper carving and more elbow grease.

Stencils can be found on the internet and downloaded from a number of sites.

Carving and scooping tools can be as simple as knives and serving spoons or you can purchase a special carving kit. I found a pretty decent one at Target for \$10.00.

This is a party made for the outdoors. Set up a table on the patio and cover with a cheap plastic table cloth that can be folded up and thrown away for easy clean-up

And of course get the fire pit going.

Set out large bowls of water on the table so your friends can rinse their hands off while the carving their pumpkins.

Keep paper towels handy for drying hands.

Use the garbage bowls to catch the seeds. It's a nice treat to clean and roast some of the seeds to munch on later when everyone is relaxing around the fire pit.

A good time to start the party is late afternoon around 4:00 pm. This will give you and your friends plenty of time to carve with darkness falling just in time to light your pumpkins.

So, once your friends arrive, start carving.

Food & Drink

After all your hard work creating your pumpkin masterpieces, you and your friends will be hungry.

Keep the food simple so you can enjoy the party. One-dish meals like Chili or Dynamites (see previous post) can be made ahead and provide a little 'heat' on a cool Fall evening.

As far as drink goes, what better libation than Pumpkin beer?