

MY FAVORITE

Halloween Costume



Junior Kings (above)

Never one to purchase Halloween costumes, I decided one year to make Elvis costumes for the boys. We enlisted my mom to help.

Complete with fringe, sequins and big glasses, the kids were set for the Fall Festival. The last-minute addition of black hair color and aluminum foil microphones must have helped as my youngest, Gilliam, won in his age group. Not to be outdone, his older brother Preston sang a few chords of “All Shook Up” when he was introduced.

Donna Hill | Elon | Piedmont EMC

1 : Jellybeans

My mother, Evalina Pait, always loved to see the children on Halloween. She would have a big bowl of candy and would make a fuss over their costumes.

Mama’s health started declining and eventually she went to live in a very nice nursing home in Lumberton.

This picture of Mama was taken on Halloween 2003. This was the only time in her 73 years that I saw her dressed for Halloween. The staff and volunteers at the nursing home dressed her as a bag of jellybeans. I would have to say this is my favorite Halloween costume. We said our final goodbyes to Mama in June 2005. I will always think of her on Halloween when I see children in costumes.

Teresa Pait | Bladenboro | Four County EMC

2 : The Wizard

My momma made this wizard costume for me when I was 6 years old in 2002. It was the first time she sewed a costume.

Hunter Downing | Raeford | Lumbee River EMC

3 : The Black Cat Comes Back

Growing up I never had a “store-bought” Halloween costume. In 1958, Mamma made me (left in photo) a real costume: a black cat suit with a white belly, ears and a long tail (stuffed with sawdust). I won first place at the school carnival. As was Mamma’s custom, the suit was saved in her cedar chest.

In 1964, my sister Karen wore the same costume at the school carnival —again winning first place. Again, Mamma packed it away. Over the years we would find it and enjoy the memories.

The costume became special to me when in 1982 my son, Anthony (center in photo), wore it. It looked good, except the tail had lost some of its wiggle. Again, my mother packed it in the attic. I thought, “Great. Another thing I will have to clean out one day.” Now I realize that she was passing her memory opportunities on to me.

Halloween 2005, my mother brought the costume out again for my precious grandson, Bryton (right in photo), to wear. The stomach was dingy, the ears flopped and the tail, though still stiff, just hung down. That costume is more special now than it was 47 years ago when it was new.

Brenda Yarborough | Henderson | NCEMC

4 : My Angel

The year was 1987. It was my daughter Elizabeth’s first Halloween. I made her this outfit and entered her in a contest at a mall as “The Littlest Angel.” She won the hearts of the judges and received a prize. I don’t know if it was the outfit or her smile that did it. She’s now going on 20, and still I think of her as my little angel.

Lynn Coble | Liberty | Randolph EMC

5 : Storm Trooper TKBIG

I wanted to build a costume that would stretch my skills to the limit so I started surfing the Net for ideas. I came across numerous sites about Star Wars costumes, especially the Storm Trooper suits. To my utter frustration, I discovered that none of the current suits would fit my frame. I couldn't believe it.

Then the idea struck me. Why not build my own? I have some artistic background, but I had never attempted a project such as this. I looked for information on sculpting and vacuum forming. To my delight I found a fantastic site for beginners. For the next 13 months, I researched and hand-clay sculpted every part of the costume. I spent five months alone on the helmet. After sculpting, I made molds using plaster. Then it was time to vacuum-pull the parts. I heated the plastic in my kitchen oven, then placed it over the mold, and turned the vacuum on. After doing this same process to all the molds, I trimmed and assembled all the parts. Finally, my dream came true—I am now called TKBIG.

Stacey Roseberry | Linwood | EnergyUnited

6 : The Hatchling

My daughter's very first Halloween costume is and will probably always be one of my favorite homemade Halloween costumes ever. I was inspired to make this little chick hatchling from an egg costume after seeing an article in Parenting magazine on baby costumes. Briana was only 3 months old on her first Halloween.

The original idea was to attach the costume to a baby carrier. I decided to revise their idea just a little since I did not own a baby carrier. The costume was very easy to make. Since she was a newborn, I thought this costume was quite appropriate for her first Halloween. She was the hit of the party that we attended that night. One of my friends borrowed the costume for her new baby the following Halloween. Everyone still talks about the costume and how cute she looked. I am a big fan of homemade Halloween costumes. This year I plan on making a little lamb costume that was shown in the Family Fun magazine.

Tracey Aaron | Lexington | EnergyUnited

7 : The Bahama Mom Moms

Every year my mom and her friend enter the Halloween costume parade at their local American Legion. This year a bunch of men got together and decided to all be Bahama Mom Moms. They all borrowed their wives' lipstick, and someone made their costumes. They put on quite a show before the judging parade. When first prize was announced the Bahama Mom Moms won, and the place went wild. It was a Halloween party none of them will forget.

To have a sense of humor when you are a senior citizen is even more of a blessing than when you are younger. Life is so short and you should always be blessed for every day that you have on earth.

Nancy J. Dotoli | Mooresville

8 : Scary Grandma

When I grew up we didn't have costumes for Halloween. We used our imaginations and anything we could find to dress up in.

I knew I was getting old when my grandson called on Halloween to say he was bringing my little great-granddaughter by so I could see her dressed up in her little doggie outfit. I decided I would surprise her, too.

I grabbed a big scarf and tied it around my shoulders and put a plastic grocery bag on my head. I thought she would think I was dressed up also.

I opened the door and she took one look at me and began to cry. She cried so hard they had to raise her cap so she wouldn't get it too wet.

It took a lot of loving and candy to get her quiet. Finally she let them put the cap down and let me see her in her "Clifford" outfit. She still didn't care for mine. Of course, we were all laughing, which didn't help any.

I learned one thing for sure. We old grandmas don't need any help on Halloween.

Chasity is the daughter of Ron and Amy Davis of Rockingham.

Lucille Haywood | Rockingham | Pee Dee EMC



Thanks to everyone who sent in stories and pictures about your favorite Halloween costume. You can see more on our Web site. Next month we'll publish your favorite photos. (Deadline was September 15.) For more themes and the rules of this series, see page 20.



9 : Our Little Fairy

This is my daughter Kaitlyn Christina Watson. She was 1 here. She loves fairies so I figured I would buy her a fairy costume. The costumes online were running around \$75, so I got my sewing materials together and made it for only \$22. What a bargain.

She looked adorable on Halloween night. She is our little fairy in our hearts. I gave this picture to her birth mother. We adopted her Nov. 22. Her birth mother loved the picture, and we still keep in touch. She is a little blessing.

Angela Watson | Lexington | EnergyUnited



10 : Mountain Man

I was 7 years old when I dressed like a mountain man for Halloween. The beard was a little itchy, but I still liked my costume. I went to Lansing Elementary School at the time and our mascot was the Mountaineer. When I went to Northwest High School our mascot was also the Mountaineer. I am 28 years old now, and I am still a mountain man because I still live in the mountains of Ashe County. 🇺🇸

Adam Miller | Lansing | Blue Ridge Electric

Send us your best Earn \$50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we'll send you \$50. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

December 2006

Regifting Mistakes

I should not have given that away.

Deadline: October 15

January 2007

Diets and Me

What worked, or what didn't work?

Deadline: November 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. One entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Summer Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616
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