

# NYBG

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## Spooky Pumpkin Garden Brings Hordes of Gourds and Scarecrows, and Plenty of Fun to The New York Botanical Garden

Highlights Include Spooky Pumpkin Garden Nights, a Pumpkin Carving Face Off, and More September 21–October 31, 2019



Photo by Marlon Co/The New York Botanical Garden

**Bronx, NY**—Starting September 21 and running through October 31, 2019, The New York Botanical Garden presents **Spooky Pumpkin Garden**, an NYBG Halloween makeover. In the Everett Children's Adventure Garden visitors can explore more than a hundred friendly larger-than-life scarecrows set among unusual pumpkins and gourds of all shapes and sizes; spruce up their Halloween décor by potting up their own ghostly dusty miller plant to take home; put on their own bone-rattling puppet show; and investigate a mysterious Victorian playhouse. Elsewhere on the NYBG grounds experience the thrills and chills of the season with visits from **Creepy Creatures** of the night during select Saturdays and Sundays. On select Fridays and Saturdays, **Spooky Pumpkin Garden Nights** are separate ticketed events that extend the fun into the evening hours, including Giant Skeletons on Parade, a Monster Mash Dance Party, and pumpkin carving demonstrations. New this year is a **Pumpkin Carving Face Off** on October 19 as carving experts battle it out to be NYBG's carver of the season. Watch as gourds are transformed into amazing shapes in **Pumpkin Carving Demonstrations** on October 20, 26, and 27. Monstrous pumpkins are also on display for **Giant Pumpkin Weekend** on October 26 and 27.

**Meet Creepy Creatures**, Saturdays and Sundays, October 12–27, 12 and 2 p.m., at the Clay Family Picnic Pavilions, where visitors can come face-to-face with snakes, bats, and other critters to learn about the critical role they play in our ecosystems and how they help the environment thrive.

- **Rad Reptiles! with the Alley Pond Environmental Center**  
October 12, 13, and 14, at 12 and 2 p.m.
- **Owls and Bats! with Center for Environmental Education and Discovery**  
October 19 and 20, at 12 and 2 p.m.
- **Creepy and Crawly: Insects, Arachnids, and Worms! with the Alley Pond Environmental Center**  
October 26 and 27, at 12 and 2 p.m.

About the presenting organizations:

- **Alley Pond Environmental Center**  
The Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC), a nonprofit environmental education organization, is dedicated to educating children and adults in the New York metropolitan area, and advocating for sustainable environmental policies and practices. APEC's Outreach programs educate children about the wonders of our natural environment.
- **Center for Environmental Education and Discovery**  
CEED connects people with nature through a unique blend of environmental education and artistry. Our mission is to promote lifelong learning in, for, and about the outdoors that inspires an appreciation of the environment for all people.

**Spooky Pumpkin Garden Nights** take place on two Fridays and Saturdays, October 18, 19, 25, and 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Break out your best costume, grab a flashlight, and go on a nighttime adventure to seek out the secrets of the Spooky Pumpkin Garden, exploring the twisting trails of the Adventure Garden. Come face-to-face with mysterious skeletons, discover the secretive lives of creatures of the night, and pick up wholesome treats along the way. (Special ticket required, Non-Members \$25, Members \$20.) *Advanced purchase recommended to guarantee admission.*

- **Get Moving During a Monster Mash Dance Party**  
Shake off the cobwebs and bust out your best dance moves as Uptown Vinyl Supreme spins favorite hits. Uptown Vinyl Supreme is a Bronx-based DJ collective and community organization paying homage to the analog roots of music, party, and dance culture.
- **Meet Giant Skeletons on Parade**  
Larger-than-life skeletons, specially commissioned by Bronx-based puppeteer Lucrecia Novoa, are on hand to greet you. Visual artist, educator, and puppeteer Lucrecia Novoa is the founder and director of "Mascara Viva."

- **See Expert Pumpkin Carving Demonstrations with Adam Bierton**  
Watch as amazing pumpkin faces and designs emerge from pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. Adam Bierton is a professional sculptor and pumpkin carver and winner of the Food Network series *Halloween Wars*.
- **Discover the Secret Life of Scarecrows: Live Shadow Puppet Performance**  
Under the autumn moon, scarecrows come to life and make mischief in the Garden. Using the magic of shadow puppetry, vintage overhead projectors, live music and a giant shadow puppet screen, the award-winning cast of [Hit the Lights! Theater Co.](#) weaves an enchanting story of scarecrows that awaken on Halloween night. The 10-minute live performance will be presented several times throughout the evening. Afterwards, try your hand at shadow puppetry stations along the Wetland Trail.

During the **Pumpkin Carving Face Off** on Saturday, October 19, from 1–4 p.m., in the Leon Levy Visitor Center, watch as carving experts compete to be NYBG's carver of the season. Master carver Adam Bierton hosts a pumpkin carving contest among some of the top New York City-area pumpkin carving artists. Adam Bierton is a professional sculptor and pumpkin carver based in New York. In 2015, Bierton was asked to participate in the Food Network series *Halloween Wars*—and he won. The Food Network contacted Bierton again in 2017 to return to defend his title on a new mini-series called *Halloween Wars: Hayride of Horror*, carving some of the largest pumpkins from all over the country.

**Pumpkin Carving Demonstrations** take place Sunday, October 20, Saturday, October 26, and Sunday, October 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. Watch as a master carver transforms pumpkins of all shapes and sizes into spooky works of art. Then pick up an expertly-designed stencil and make your own spooky creation at home.

Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27 is **Giant Pumpkin Weekend**. Gargantuan pumpkins from around the country—some weighing more than a ton—once again arrive at The New York Botanical Garden, arranged in collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth. Visitors can meet the growers to learn more about the growing process during Q & A sessions and snap a selfie next to these gargantuan gourds.

The Everett Children's Adventure Garden is open all day for exploration, with guided activities on weekdays, 1:30–5:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Tickets and more information about NYBG's Spooky Pumpkin Garden are available at [www.nybg.org/event/scarecrows-pumpkins/](http://www.nybg.org/event/scarecrows-pumpkins/)

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**The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the All-Garden Pass, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure**

Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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