



YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN CHARGE
FOUNDATION, INC.

Junior Editor's Report

October and the Origin of Halloween

By Kimora White – Norristown Chapter

October is most known for our famous U.S. celebrated spooky holiday, Halloween! I'm sure we all love Halloween for the free candy, cool costumes, and amazing parties... I mean who wouldn't? But don't you ever get curious about the origin of Halloween? How did it start? What is the significance of this day? Why would you spend your hard-earned money on candy, just to give it all away? Well, there's an interesting origin about this amazing holiday.



Halloween was originated from deep roots of the Celts. The Celts were a collection of Western-European people, back in the 8th century. Halloween is based on the pagan religious celebration "Samhain," which represented the blessing of end-of-summer harvest. People would dress up in costumes and light fires to scare off ghosts and negative energy. Pope Gregory III designated November 1st as the time to honor all the good spirits and energy that is brought on to them and reserved the 31st of October to ensure that no evil would be in their way.

The costumes worn by the Celts are nothing like the costumes you would see in modern days. Celts made their costumes using natural resources such as animal skin, and plants. They often used the heads of animals to disguise themselves as something bigger and scarier than the evil entities they figured would try to cause distress and horror to their people and land.

There is not much concrete evidence that can support the reason as to why trick-or-treating even started, but there are three main theories that have developed over time, one being that the Celts would leave a huge meal for the spirits roaming around that night. Over time, people dressed as these evil spirits they believed roamed the earth so that they could receive food and drink.

Halloween is a wonderful holiday with an interesting origin. Although our current version of Halloween or "Samhain" may be different from how it was practiced back in the 8th century, it will always be known as the most fun and spookiest night of every year.