

Add to the Pumpkin Patch experience by getting there in a train

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Most people drive to a farm or store to buy Halloween pumpkins, but Danbury offers another option.

You can chug, chug, chug your way to the Pumpkin Patch 2011 on a vintage train at Danbury Railway Museum.

The popular annual family offering will unfold on three weekends this month, beginning Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15 and 16.

Trains will depart every hour on the half hour, beginning 30 minutes after opening each day.

Kids and their parents can ride the Pumpkin Patch train -- either a self-propelled 1953 Rail Diesel Car or a 1920s passenger coach pulled by a 44-ton locomotive -- through the railyard, which holds more than 70 historic railroad cars and locomotives.

When they arrive in the domain of the Great Pumpkin, each child can pick out one pumpkin from the hundreds available to take home for free. And for a literal taste of fall, cider and cookies will be served.

All exhibits, artifacts, and multiple operating model train layouts inside the restored 108-year-old Danbury rail station will be open, and its gift store will be, too. Kids can also enjoy a coloring station, temporary tattoos, and the operating garden railroad out in the yard.

No reservations are required. The event will take place rain or shine, and children are encouraged to come in costume.

Danbury Railway Museum, 120 White St., Danbury. Saturdays and Sundays, Oct. 15 and 16, 22 and 23, and 29 and 30. Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays noon-4 p.m. \$9 ages 2 and over, free for children under 24 months, 203-778-8337, www.danbury.org/drm.

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