

USF students disregard stereotypes of danger on Halloween night.

Arguments have emerged at the University of South Florida, as students struggle to determine whether or not there is an issue of dangerous activities on Halloween night.

Halloween is considered to be a holiday that encourages college students to party, abuse alcohol, dress inappropriately and partake in outlandish behavior. The annual charade happens on all college campuses, and for USF there's no exception. Due to USF's open campus and urban location, accounts occur each year of cases of violence and sexual abuse.

Many students argued that they don't find partying a mandatory activity on Halloween night, contrary to popular belief. As it turns out a handful of students spent Halloween in a low-key setting, neither drinking alcohol nor partying. Many students celebrated the evening without alcohol, just about as much as those who did.

"It is actually dangerous because people usually do drink and they're not aware of what's going on," said Yesha Patel, a junior.

To insure safety and well-being for the student body, USF has employed various precautions and communication tactics. Over 70 blue emergency lights can be found throughout the campus, which can immediately contact campus police and security when activated. Students may also have their phone numbers subscribed to USF's MoBull Messenger. The emergency alert service texts sends out texts to students in the event of criminal activity on or off campus. Students subscribed to the messenger get updated throughout the investigation until police confirm safety.

Students have been taking advantage of Safe And Free Escort (S.A.F.E) Team, a free transportation and escorting service for students on campus who wish to not walk by themselves at night. Alejandro Navas, freshmen, argued that USF has good control on campus safety. He saw many cop cars patrolling the campus on Halloween night.

"It's totally safe," said Navas. "I feel like most of the dangers associated with being out on Halloween can be controlled by your own self-judgement."

Despite previous records of crime, students have concluded that this candy-filled holiday is not as dangerous as it seems. Many regarded that a decline in dangerous activities is due to students on and

off campus who have become proactive in making safe choices. Some individuals, like Sayeem Patel, even spent it off-campus with family.

“There are parties. Sometimes I do go, sometimes I don’t go,” said Patel. “But last night I didn’t go. And we just brought candy to our house, and gave it out.”

Nashyia Griffin, sophomore, was among the many other students who enjoyed a simple evening in the safety of her campus home. Griffin and her roommates baked cookies in their dorm.

“We hung out in the lobby. A bunch of our friends from our floor hung out and that’s about it,” said Griffin.