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## **October at the History Center: A Civil War Mystery, Community Stories, and Spooky Fun**

This October, the Orange County Regional History Center offers a month packed with history, mystery, and Halloween fun. Highlights include a Lunch & Learn program exploring Florida's Civil War ties and the strange fate of Lincoln assassination conspirator Lewis Powell, a family-friendly History Alive day spotlighting Orlando's diverse communities, and seasonal favorites such as Trick or Treat Safe Zone, Sensory Sunday: Spooky Senses, and a special History After Dark: Halloween Edition, geared for adults. From guided tours to creepy crafts, there's something for every age to discover. Mark your calendars and learn more at [TheHistoryCenter.org/Events/](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Events/)

### **Lunch & Learn: Succession to Scandal – The Civil War and Lincoln's Assassination** *Friday, October 3, 2025, Noon – 1 p.m.*

During the Civil War, Florida was the third state to secede from the Union in 1860. It was also home to Lewis Powell, a conspirator in the assassination plot against President Abraham Lincoln. For more than a century after Powell's execution, his body remained separated from his skull, the whereabouts of which were shrouded in mystery. Join our collections registrar, Kara Kovalev, and collections manager, Emily Coughlan, as they delve into Florida's connections to the Civil War and the mystery of Powell's death. Participate online or in-person. Closed captioning available online.

**Cost:** Free for History Center Members; General Public \$5. Cost with lunch: \$12 for History Center Members; General Public \$17. (Lunch must be ordered by 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 2.)

**Details and to register:** [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Lunch-Learn-Secession-to-Scandal/](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Lunch-Learn-Secession-to-Scandal/)

### **History Alive: Communities Around Orlando** *Saturday, October 4, 2025, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

From its early days as a citrus-growing hub to its modern role as a melting pot of cultures, Orlando has been shaped by the people who call it home. Learn about communities around Orlando through guided tours and family-friendly activities, including creating your own historic postcard, designing a pioneer wagon to traverse the frontier, and learning about the sometimes surprising produce grown in Central Florida, from celery and citrus to guavas and pineapples.

**Guided museum tours:** 10:30 a.m., Noon, 1:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

**Details:** [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Communities-Around-Orlando/](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Communities-Around-Orlando/)

### **Trick or Treat Safe Zone**

***Sunday, October 12, 2025, Noon – 3 p.m.***

Calling all ghosts and ghouls: it's time for our annual Trick or Treat Safe Zone! Enjoy trick or treating throughout the History Center and the Orlando Public Library along with a scavenger hunt, creepy crafts, candy, games, and more. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Candy bags will be provided! To find out what the library has planned (and receive a Halloween-themed reading list) visit [OCLS.org/TrickOrTreat](https://ocls.org/TrickOrTreat). Free admission. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Note:** Activities at the Orlando Public Library take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Details:** [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Trick-or-treat/](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Trick-or-treat/)

### **Sensory Sunday: Spooky Senses**

***Sunday, October 19, 2025, Noon – 4 p.m.***

Take your senses on a wild ride as you explore all the creepy crawly, ooey gooey activities offered at this sensory-friendly Halloween celebration! Bring your costumes and candy bags as you enjoy trick-or-treating throughout the museum. Our Sensory Sundays are designed to offer a welcoming, comfortable experience for guests with autism spectrum disorder and sensory processing sensitivity.

**Details:** [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Sensory-Sunday-Spooky-Senses/](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Sensory-Sunday-Spooky-Senses/)

### **History After Dark: Halloween Edition**

***Friday, October 24, 2025, 5 – 9 p.m.***

Step into the past with a haunting twist at the History Center! Explore immersive storytelling, encounters with historical figures, hands-on activities, and hidden tales of Central Florida at this special adult-centered October event. Test your luck at eerie games (with prizes), uncover surprises in a scavenger hunt, and dance the night away. From ghostly encounters to haunting history, it will be a spirited night you won't forget. Advanced ticket purchase is strongly encouraged.

**Tickets:** Students \$10; Adults \$20 (includes admission and one drink ticket).

**Details and registration:** [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-After-Dark-Halloween-Edition](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-After-Dark-Halloween-Edition)

**The Orange County Regional History Center**, housed in a historic courthouse at 65 E. Central Blvd. in downtown Orlando, features four floors of permanent and special exhibitions. The museum is a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is funded in part by Orange County Government through the Community & Family Services Department under Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and the Board of County Commissioners. The Historical Society of Central Florida Inc. is supported by United Arts of Central Florida and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. For more information, visit [TheHistoryCenter.org](https://TheHistoryCenter.org).

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