



Call for Altars!!!

We would be honored to have you participate in our Día de los Muertos Celebration this coming November 6th. An altar is a traditional way to honor those who have gone before. If you are an organization having an altar at such a large community event will also draw attention to the important work you do on behalf of those you commemorate.

We hope that you will be able to participate in displaying an altar to the hundreds of individuals that come to our celebration at the Westside Community Center, 1250 Isleta Blvd. SW. The center is the final point of the Marigold Parade which is now in its 25th year. If you are interested in displaying an altar please e-mail the following information, by hitting reply.

Name of group displaying altar
e-mail address or mailing address to receive updates
phone number and name of contact person
Theme of altar or who it is dedicated to

We are asking you to bring your own tables and items to set up your altar at the Community Center. The setting up of altars will take place from 12pm to 2pm in the gym on Sun., Nov. 5. We ask that you do not light candles or incense or display any alcoholic beverages due to the rules of the community center. Altars should be taken down towards the end of the event around 6pm.

Thanks for your time and consideration! We look forward to your participation!

Ilene Weiss weiss_i@earthlink.net, (505)344-5942

To understand more about who we are and what we do, please visit the following on line locations:

Website: <http://muertosymarigolds.org/> (Mission and complete schedule of events)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MuertosYMarigolds/>

Note: A representative of your group is strongly encouraged to attend the following workshop. *It is not required for participation.*

Altars and Face Painting Workshop with Artist Sofia Martinez and Dina DeVore : Altar construction and other Dia de los Muertos traditions Saturday September 23rd, 1-4 pm
Los Jardines Institute, 803 Vega Drive SW 87105. Phone: 505-503-6281



What is the purpose of a Day of the Dead altar?

The ritual of Dia De Los Muertos once was strictly a ritual celebrated by the Native Americans of the South and Central Americas. This holiday is a time when we believe that the veil, or division, between the afterlife and the living is made easier to cross allowing our loved ones that have died to come back and share a time with us again.

A Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) altar is meant to honor the memory of someone who touched your life. This can be anyone from a family member to a historical leader. Anyone who had a positive impact on your life can be the subject of your Day of the Dead altar. People also make altars to show their support for others. Your altar could be dedicated to a group of family members or even a group of people such as those who died for a certain cause. There are two aspects to altar making on el Dia de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead). The first is to communicate with those that are no longer physically with us. The second aspect is the connection it provides us to the world at large and to our place in the after-life. By building an altar we are acknowledging that we go on and that not being physically present isn't the same as being gone.

Altars should include:

1. a picture of the one being remembered
2. items they were found of
3. A selection of the deceased favorite foods
4. A cup of fresh water to drink after a long dry journey
5. candles (not to be lit at community center)
6. fresh flowers, the traditional flower is a marigold, or its relative, the chrysanthemum, called "xempasuchitl.," or paper flowers
7. Salt to season the dish is always provided

Altars could include:

1. pictures of saints
2. papel picado
3. sugar skulls
4. books
5. their favorite drink and a glass (no alcoholic beverages allowed at the community center)
6. Pan De Muerto
7. Homemade or store brought Skeletons: These should be funny and inviting images of the dead doing things that are fun, scary or grotesque images are never used in this ceremony.
8. A wash basin with water and a towel to refresh ones self from the journey from the netherworld to this and also to freshen up when getting ready to depart
9. Cigarettes for those who were smokers
10. Extra sweets and a toy for those who were children
11. Incense-copal(do not light at community center)

A Dia de los Muertos altar can be as simple or as elaborate as you want. The purpose of an altar is remembrance, with that in mind feel free to do what you think your honoree would enjoy. The point is, size doesn't really matter, what matters is the heart you put into it.

