

Día de los Muertos Altar Contest

Saturday, Nov. 1
10 a.m.-1 p.m. (set-up)
3 p.m. winners chosen
Rawlings-2nd floor
Hispanic Resource Center

The Pueblo City-County Library District is now accepting entries for the first annual **Día de los Muertos Altar Contest!** Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a traditional Mexican celebration that is a joyful remembrance in which death is recognized as a natural part of the cycle of life.

Nov. 1 and 2 (All Saint's Day, All Soul's Day) represent a mixture of Christian devotion with pre-Hispanic rituals and beliefs which are embodied in the traditional altar-offering.

An *ofrenda* (offering) is an altar to remember and honor loved ones who have passed. It consists of offerings such as favorite foods on a day when their spirit returns to relive memories.

Traditionally, *ofrendas* are colorful and decorative, laden with gifts to please returning spirit guests and adorned with orange marigolds, sugar skulls, candles and papel picado banners. Offerings of food are also left on the altar.

Some traditional offerings include fruit, hot chocolate, pan de muerto and a glass of water for the weary traveller.



Special items belonging to the deceased such as a hat or a guitar can also be displayed.

Your *ofrenda* can be a general celebration of ancestors past, celebrities or beloved pets.

In creating a traditional altar, the four elements of nature are represented:

- **Earth**, represented by fruits or favorite family dishes that feed the souls with rich aroma.
- **Wind**, represented by movement, using generally confetti or papel picado.
- **Water**, is placed in a container for the soul's thirst after the long journey to reach the altar.
- **Fire**, a candle for each soul remembered and an extra candle is for the forgotten soul.

Salt is placed as a means of purification, copal (incense) commemorates pre-Hispanic history, and *cempasúchitl* (marigold flower) petals are scattered to guide the soul to the altar.

Photographs of loved ones are also placed to remember and relive.

PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY
LIBRARY
Ideas · Imagination · Information

Please submit form to Maria Smyer, Hispanic Resource Coordinator, Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave.

Día de los Muertos Altar Contest entry form

Submissions due by Saturday, Oct. 18

When completed, please drop off this form at any library location, you will receive an email regarding your submission status and instructions for set up by Oct. 25. There is NO FEE to participate.

Name of participant(s):

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Who is the Altar in honor of?



RULES:

- Altars must not exceed 5 feet in height and 5 feet in width.
- Participants will be provided one table for their altar and two chairs.
- Altars must be free-standing. Participants will not be allowed to attach materials to walls.
- Organic materials (plants, food offerings) are acceptable. Alcohol is not allowed.
- Offensive material will include but are not limited to items such as sexually explicit or demeaning, racist, and

promotion of crime, cruelty, and violence.

- Battery operated candles are allowed. No open flames are allowed.
- Installation takes place Saturday, Nov. 1st between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- De-installation takes place on Saturday, Nov. 1st from 4-5:30 p.m.
- Judging takes place on Saturday, Nov. 1st between 1-3 p.m.
- Winners announced on Saturday, Nov. 1st at 3 p.m.

Altars judged on overall appearance, originality and creativity reference to traditions of Día de los Muertos.

Altars may be set up from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1, on the 2nd floor in a designated area of the Hispanic Resource Center. Check in with staff on the 2nd floor when you arrive.

Winners announced at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1. Must be present to receive prizes. Altars must be taken down by 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1.