



## First Annual Día de los Muertos Altar Contest Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Lynwood Partners Educational Foundation first annual Día de los Muertos Altar Contest for Lynwood Unified students. Below is detailed information about participating in the altar contest.

### Reserve an altar site:

- Fill out the online application form by October 28 at <https://forms.gle/kfbV2hkmlNExUg2z9>

Once you have filled out the online application form, we will contact you with a map, instructions and altar space number at the designated location at city hall.

### Before filling out your application, please read through the following rules and instructions:

We **STRONGLY** encourage you to start building your altar the day before the event, or at least drop off your altar supplies. You can start as early as Monday, November 1st, at 2pm. You are allowed to work through the evening until 8:00 pm.

Please plan ahead, arrive organized and as early as possible for an enjoyable setup-experience.

Once you get to the front of city hall you will find your name and numbered space on the map, and taped on the floor.

### RULES:

- Altars must not exceed 6 feet in height and 9 feet in width.
- Participants must provide their own table for their altar.
- 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 such as sexually explicit or demeaning, racist, and promotion of crime, cruelty, and violence will not be accepted and will be removed.
- Electricity will not be provided.
- Battery operated candles are allowed.
- Installation takes place Monday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> between 2:00 pm. and 6 pm.

- De-installation takes place on Wednesday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00-5:00 pm.
- Judging takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm.
- Winners announced on Tuesday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm.

**Only altars completed by 8pm Monday, November 1st, 2021 will be considered for the contest.**

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

Altars must be taken down by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3.

We want to thank you for your participation with this amazing event. We look forward to working with you. For questions, contact us at [Info@lynwoodedfoundation.org](mailto:Info@lynwoodedfoundation.org) or 310.985.9713.

Thank you.

## **Suggestion for Creating Your Altar**

One of the key elements of Dia de los Muertos revolves around ofrendas, or offerings, which are created through a visual display of altar-making and grave decorating. The offerings, a main focal point of the observance, echo the dedication and distinct love that is presented toward the dearly departed. Altars can be created through a wide spectrum of dedications, depending on one's creative desire. The altar includes the four main elements of nature – Earth, Wind, Water and Fire.

- Earth is represented by the crop: The soul is fed by the various earthly aromas. Placing fruit or favorite family dishes on the altar provides nourishment for the beloved souls.
- Wind is represented by a moving object: Paper- Mache is commonly utilized to represent the echoes of the wind.
- Water is placed in a container for the soul to quench its thirst after the long-awaited journey to the altar. Water is also used for the means of purification.
- Fire is represented by a wax candle: Each lit candle represents a loving soul, and an extra one is placed for the forgotten soul.
- Copal – Incense burned to commemorate Pre-Columbian history.
- The Cempasuchitl-Marigold known as “The flower of the dead” blossoms in the valleys of Mexico during the months of October and November with a bright yellow color and is central to altar decorating. This flower aids the spirits to wander back.
- Pictures are widely used in honor of the individual you are paying homage to.
- The Skull – The common symbol of the holiday is the skull which is celebrated and represented by decorative masks called calacas. In addition, sugar skulls are also tastefully created and inscribed with the names of both the honored and living recipients on the forehead as a means to remind us of our own mortality.