OFPL ALTAR COMPETITION

We are looking for individuals or groups to create and display an altar in the Día De Los Muertos competition on Nov. 2nd at El Morro Events Center.

This is an opportunity to pay homage to deceased loved ones – family, friends, pets, celebrities or ancestors – by creating a personal ofrenda (altar) that will be displayed.

There is **NO FEE** to participate.

Altars will be displayed at El Morro Events Center and can be built on November 2nd between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Contestants will be awarded at 3:00 p.m. and must be present to win a prize.

Deadline for reserving space is **Friday, October 27 at 6 p.m.**

For more information contact 863-1291 or visit our website [www.galluplibrary.org](http://www.galluplibrary.org)

A traditional ofrenda (altar) represents the four elements of nature:

- **Earth:** Fruits or favorite family dishes that feed the souls
- **Wind:** Movement, using generally confetti or papel picado
- **Water:** For the soul’s thirst after the long journey
- **Fire:** A candle for each soul remembered and an extra candle is for the forgotten soul.
- **Salt:** A means of purification,
- **Copal (incense)** commemorates pre-Hispanic history
- **Cempasúchitl** (marigold flower) petals are scattered to guide the soul to the altar.
- Photographs of loved ones are also placed to remember and relive.
- Monarch butterflies are believed to hold the spirits of the departed. This belief stems from the fact that the first monarchs arrive in Mexico for the winter each fall on Nov. 1, which coincides with Día de los Muertos.

**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.
- Organic materials (plants, food offerings) are acceptable. Alcohol is not allowed.
- Offensive material will not be allowed which include but are not limited to items that are sexually explicit or demeaning, racist, and promote crime, cruelty, and violence.
- Battery operated candles are allowed. **No open flames are allowed.**
ALTAR FOR THE DEAD

It represents the four elements: air (cut paper), water (drinks), fire (candles) and earth (seeds). It could have two, three or seven steps.

1. The picture of a saint or virgin.
2. Candles and lights.
3. Toys and cups with salt.
5. The departed’s favorite food and drinks.
6. Photos of the departed loved ones.
7. Crosses made with salt or seeds, flowers and cut paper.