



SANTA FE COUNTY



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

REMEMBRANCE • CULTURE • COMMUNITY

José Guadalupe Posada, the editor and artist, created the calavera in the 1940s as a cultural critique and reminder that death is part of life for everyone.



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

REMEMBER • HONOR • CELEBRATE LIFE



Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a cherished tradition in which families and communities remember and honor loved ones who have passed, celebrating their lives and continuing bonds across generations.

TIPS FOR BUILDING YOUR HOME ALTAR / OFRENDA

Create a welcoming space for your loved ones. Use a table or stacked boxes to make levels, and include elements that represent the four elements of life, plus personal items that bring joy and meaning.



PHOTOGRAPHS / FOTOS

Place photos of your loved ones, family, friends, or pets at the highest point of the altar.



MARIGOLDS / CEMPASÚCHIL

Use bright orange or yellow flowers or petals to guide spirits home with their scent and color.



FIRE / FUEGO

Add candles or veladoras to light the way.



WATER / AGUA

Place a fresh glass of water to quench the returning soul's thirst.



WIND / AIRE

Hang papel picado (colorful cut tissue paper) to represent the wind and the fragility and beauty of life.



EARTH / TIERRA

Offer favorite foods such as pan de muerto, fruits, or seeds to nourish and welcome your loved ones.



COPAL / INCIENSO

Burn copal or resin to purify the space and lift your prayers.



SUGAR SKULLS / CALAVERAS

Include candy or ceramic skulls to symbolize the sweetness of life and acceptance of death.



PERSONAL MEMENTOS

Add music, drinks, hobbies, or special items that reflect the person's life, passions, and spirit.



RECORDAMOS • HONRAMOS • CELEBRAMOS LA VIDA

