

# The Day of The Dead: Traditions and Activities

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# The Rose Horses of Zurumucapio

Distinctive to San Angel Zurumucapio is the tradition of making small rose, and decorated horses and dedicating them to those who died during the year. Several members of the community dedicate themselves to this work.



# Make cempasúchitls out of tissue paper

- Celebrated on November 1st and 2nd
- Paper flowers
- Used for decorating altar or dressing up your home for the occasion
- Made with tissue paper
- Made into bouquets (sometimes)



# Telling Stories about the Deceased

- One of the biggest is telling stories about the ones who passed away
- Celebrants believe that the souls of the dead return back down to Earth
- Families recognize the cycle of life and death



# The Annual Procession (Parade)

- Open to all cultures
  - Aztec, Japanese, Irish, Iraqi, Somali, Tohono O'odham, or any other cultural tradition.
- Freshly created ways of honoring the dead, and grieving our other losses
  - Losses of ideas, of hopes, of dreams, of homes, of relationship
- They do not care how you participate in the procession



# Sugar Skulls (Mexico Tradition)

- The day of the dead is a outdoor market where sugar skulls are found
- The sugar skull was founded in the 17th century
- This tradition has been around for over 50 years
- These skulls are decorated in different kinds of sugars, candies and icing
- All of the skulls are hand made



# How is “Day of the Dead” celebrated?

The idea of making altars come from people thinking that the dead can come back on this day. Multiple families build the altars in many different ways. Each step of the altar has different items. Some altars are made with 7 levels, or steps. To make the altars they use cardboard or wood. First, they make the last level since it is the bigger than the rest. Each level or step is smaller than the other. The altars are covered with black or white cloths. People put crosses on the altar. Crosses are made out of 4 candles. Purple signifies; pain, suffering, grief, and mourning. Pink signifies; celebration. White signifies; purity and hope. Orange signifies; sun. Red signifies; the blood of life. Yellow signifies; Cempazuchitl, which are marigolds that symbolize death. Petals are used to make a trail so that the spirits can see the path to their altars.



# References

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