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# Moab Happenings

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EVENTS

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What is the Day of the Dead Festival and why should you go?  
*Moab Valley Multicultural Center Executive Director Rhiana Medina provides answers to frequently asked questions about their annual Day of the Dead Festival.*



Q: When and where is the Day of the Dead Festival happening?  
RM: Glad you asked! Our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Day of the Dead Festival will be taking place on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm at 156 North 100 West

Q: What can I expect if I attend?

RM: Visitors can expect a live mariachi band, kids activities, cultural exhibits that reflect the symbolism of light, cultural dance performance, decorative altars honoring deceased loved ones and of course, so much Latin food!

Q: How much does it cost?

RM: It's free! Kids welcome, sorry no pets. We're a nonprofit so please feel free to make a donation or purchase food.

Q: What is Day of the Dead?

RM: Almost every country has a religious or national holiday reserved for honoring the deceased. In the USA, we observe Memorial Day every in May. Mexico has one of the most widely known - Día de los Muertos. Graves and altars are decorated with candles, cempasúchil (marigold) flowers, and the favorite foods of the deceased relative.



Q: Where else do they celebrate Day of the Dead besides Mexico?

RM: Many countries celebrate Day of the Dead! The holiday is popular in Bolivia, Venezuela, Guatemala, and many other countries. Its popularity is growing in the United States as evidenced by the Pixar movie, "Coco".

Q: Where did Day of the Dead originate?

RM: The Aztec empire (A.D. 1325 - 1521) celebrated Day of the Dead long before Spanish conquistadors fused it with Catholicism to create the Día de los Muertos we know today. The celebration originally lasted for nearly a month and was believed to be presided over by the mythic goddess of death and the underworld Mictēcacihuātl (Meek-tay-kah-see-watl). The Aztec people believed that Mictēcacihuātl watched over the bones of the dead so they could be used later to create new life in the land of the living. Each year, the Aztecs would hold celebrations with dance and food to thank her for her protection.

Q: What else do I need to know?

RM: The Moab Valley Multicultural Center is working hard every day in Moab to provide social services, youth programs, language interpretation, and cultural education in Moab for free or very low cost. Please come out and support us! Check us out at [www.moabmc.org](http://www.moabmc.org)

