



FARMWORKER ADVOCACY NETWORK

Reform for North Carolina's Farmworkers

Host a *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) Celebration!

Day of the Dead (*Día de los Muertos*) is a Mexican holiday and celebration that takes place on November 1st and 2nd, in connection with the Catholic holidays of All Saints day and All Souls' Day. Traditions connected with the holiday include building private altars honoring the deceased using sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods and beverages of the departed and visiting graves with these as gifts. Host a party to honor and celebrate the lives of farmworkers and farmworker children who have died while working in the fields.

Materials and Ideas for your Day of the Dead Celebration

1. Build an altar with candles, flowers, and photos of passed loved ones along- side farmworkers who have lost their lives in the North Carolina fields. You can include articles of clothing or personal items representing those being honored. (See obituary page.)
2. Have a costume contest! Find ideas for Day of the Dead theme at <http://www.squidoo.com/day-of-the-dead-skull-makeup>
3. Farmworker fact sheets reporting on substandard living and working conditions (see www.ncfarmworkers.org/resources/#Facts or www.ncfan.org/farmworker-facts.)
4. Make a traditional Mexican dish or a favorite dish of a passed loved one. Recipe for traditional *sugar skulls* at http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/sugar_skulls/instructions.html
5. Party! This is a *CELEBRATION* of the lives of those passed. Put your favorite tunes on and party like its 1999!
6. More info here: http://gomexico.about.com/od/festivalsholidays/ht/make_altar.htm and http://dia-de-los-muertos.123holiday.net/dia_de_los_muertos_alter.html.

Don't host a party without taking action!

The point of your party is not just to have fun and educate people about farmworkers – it's a chance to make a difference! In order to truly improve conditions for farmworkers, we need to change the laws, and that means that lawmakers need to hear from you. Choose one of these ideas, or come up with your own!

1) Photos or video from your party. You will need: Camera/video camera, paper, markers.

-Make photo postcards! Ask participants to make a sign stating why they support farm workers, with their name and city at the bottom. Take a picture of each person with their sign. After the party, send your photos electronically to: harvestofdignity@gmail.com. Find examples on our Facebook page and at www.ncfan.org/photos.

-Make video postcards! Have each participant take 15 seconds on camera to say why they support farm workers. After the party, send your short videos electronically to: harvestofdignity@gmail.com

2) Letters to legislators. You will need: Talking points (attached), pens, envelopes and stamps, and contact information about your state legislators (look them up at www.ncleg.net). Send your NC House and Senate members a letter from the participants at your party. The letter should mention your church or organization if they have endorsed the campaign (use organizational letterhead), or it can be signed individually if you are not affiliated with an organization. After the party, please send an email to harvestofdignity@gmail.com to let us know how many letters were signed and sent out, and to which legislators.

3) Postcards to Legislators. Grab a stack of our awesome HOD postcards for allies to sign and return to FAN (www.ncfan.org/about-us/#contact). We are gathering these on an ongoing basis to use with legislators.