

# Altars & Ofrendas



Altars and Ofrendas are the centerpiece of Dia de los Muertos. Families create special altars for their departed loved-ones on the Day of the Dead. These beautiful altars are like scrapbooks, with pictures of that person and some of their favorite things. These things are called ofrendas, or offerings. Other decorations, like sugar skulls, flowers, and candles, are also placed on the altar in hopes that the dead will be able to enjoy them.

Most Altars contain:

- Photos of deceased loved ones
- Favorite foods & objects
- Pan de muertos or bread of the dead
- Flowers, usually marigolds that guide the spirits with their scent
- Candles, to light the way of the spirits
- A glass of water so the spirits can quench their thirst after a long journey
- Copal incense

These Items symbolize the four primordial elements: Water, fire, earth, and air.