

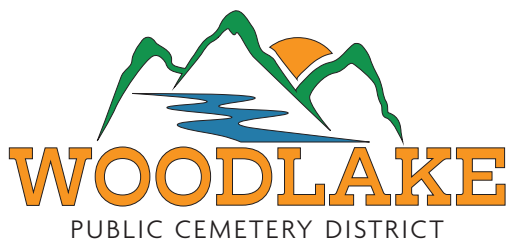
Dia de los Muertos Headstone/Altar Decorating Contest 2026 Contest Rules

Contest Overview

- **Event Details:** Sunday, November 1, 2026 during Dia de los Muertos, 2-6 p.m. at the Woodlake Public Cemetery, 165 N. Cypress Street, Woodlake, CA
- **Judging:** Contest Judging will begin between 2:30 and 3 p.m., depending on the number of entries.
- **Awards:** Cash prize will be awarded to the winner! Prize amount will be determined by number of entries. Winner to be announced before 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 1.
- **Entry Deadline:** 5 p.m., Thursday, October 29, 2026. No late entries will be accepted.
- **Entry Fee:** \$40 per entry. No refunds will be given once entry fee is paid. Cash or check payable to "Woodlake Public Cemetery" accepted and must be submitted with entry form.
- **Entry Submission:** Hand deliver entry form and payment to the Woodlake Public Cemetery, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and give to any cemetery staff member, or mail entry form and payment to: Woodlake Public Cemetery, 165 N. Cypress Street, Woodlake, CA 93286. The Cemetery Manager will keep the office open until 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 29 to accept any final entries.

Contest Rules

- Headstones must be decorated and completed by Sunday, November 1 at 2 p.m.
- Judging criteria will be based on creativity using the main altar elements of Dia de los Muertos (earth, wind, water, fire, Copal/Sage, Cempasúchil (Marigold), pictures, and the skull).
- Must be legal next of kin to the loved one's headstone you are decorating. Next of kin is defined as spouse, parent, grandparent, child or grandchild of the deceased. You cannot decorate a cousin, aunt or uncle or friend's headstone, unless written permission from legal next of kin is included with the entry form. You may enter as a family.
- Decorations must be contained within 3-foot x 8-foot of a single grave or 6-foot x 8-foot for a double grave. Entries that go over the width and length restrictions will be disqualified, and entry fee will be forfeited.
- Decorations must be appropriate for public viewing and within the Dia de los Muertos theme. No nudity, obscene sayings or photographs, or gang symbols will be allowed to be depicted in the decorations.
- Please plan ahead and arrive organized.
- Please be respectful of the community's loved ones laid to rest in the Cemetery and remove your own trash after you are done decorating, as well as after you remove your decorations. Please take your trash with you.
- No electricity will be provided, and we ask that you illuminate your entry with battery-powered candles or solar lights. No open flame burning candles will be allowed for the contest, as it is a fire hazard, particularly with so many members of the public in attendance.
- Altar decorations should be removed from gravesites by 8 a.m., Monday, November 9, but you are permitted to keep items on the headstone itself until the Cemetery's scheduled December clean-up day. The Cemetery staff will do a deep cleaning of ALL flowers and Dia de los Muertos decorations on Tuesday, December 1. The Cemetery is not responsible for any items left on gravesites before or after the contest date of November 1.
- Good sportsmanship must be adhered to before and during the competition, and following the announcement of the 2026 contest winner. Any sabotage, threats or harassment of judges or other competitors before, during or after the contest will result in being disqualified from the 2026 contest, forfeiting entry fee, and being banned from entering future contests.



Dia de los Muertos Headstone/Altar Decorating Contest 2026 Entry Form

Entry Information

If decorating multiple graves for the contest, please complete a separate entry form and submit the \$40 entry fee for each gravesite.

Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

Family Name (required if entering as a family): _____

Name of Loved One's Grave You Will Be Decorating: _____

Your Relationship to the Deceased (son, daughter, parent, grandparent, etc.): _____

Burial Location (Cemetery will verify location. If you do not have this information, please include the year they passed away):

Year They Passed Away: _____

Description of Your Entry: _____

Tell us a little about your loved one and their life: _____

Contest Waiver

I understand the responsibilities with entering the Dia de los Muertos Headstone Decorating Contest and will adhere to the contest rules. I/We agree to release and hold harmless the Woodlake Public Cemetery District and any of its employees, board members and volunteers from any loss, damage or injury resulting from participating in this event. I/We are aware that the Woodlake Public Cemetery District, its employees, board members and volunteers are not responsible for any items used for the contest or left on the gravesite after the contest concludes. I/We understand this is a judged contest and will adhere to good sportsmanship before and during contest judging, and following the announcement of the contest winner. I/We understand that violating the contest rules will eliminate us from being allowed to enter the contest in future years.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Entry Received: _____ Received By: _____ Amount Paid: _____ Cash Check# _____

Gravesite Location Verified: _____