

WINTER SOLSTICE



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THE WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATES THE LONGEST HOURS OF DARKNESS OR THE REBIRTH OF THE SUN AND IS BELIEVED TO HOLD A POWERFUL ENERGY FOR REGENERATION, RENEWAL AND SELF-REFLECTION. IN PAGAN TIMES THE WINTER SOLSTICE WAS REFERRED TO AS YULE AND WAS A CELEBRATION OF THE GODDESS (MOON) ENERGY

HERE IS EDUCATIONAL GUIDE TO CREATIVITY ON WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. CONSIDER HONORING THESE TRADITIONS OR THOSE OF YOUR OWN.

WE WILL PROVIDE THE LED CANDLE LIGHTS AT THE TIMBER PAVILION WITH THE VISITOR KIT. **(NO FIRE/FLAMES, PLEASE)**. IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN BATTERY POWERED CANDLES, LIGHTS OR GLOW STICKS TO CONTRIBUTE, THAT IS WELCOME TOO.



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Creativity Challenge: Use one of the following celebrations to guide your luminary concept and/or inspire your design



IN SPANISH, THE WORD FAROLITO TRANSLATES AS "LITTLE LANTERN", WHILE LUMINARIA MEANS "FESTIVAL LIGHT". HISTORICALLY LUMINARIA REFERRED NOT TO A PAPER LANTERN BUT TO A SMALL FESTIVAL OR VIGIL BONFIRE; HOWEVER, THIS DISTINCTION IS NOT COMMONLY MADE OUTSIDE OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO.

Parol / Misas de Aguinaldo

A tradition of the Philippines, star-shaped lanterns, are made with bamboo and Japanese paper. They are an expression of shared faith and hope. The use of paper lanterns during the Christmas Novena procession originates from the similar parol (Spanish farol). These were introduced to New Spain via the Manila galleons.

In Spanish language, a luminaria is actually a bonfire

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Soyal

The Hopi Native American tribe celebrate the winter solstice with the Soyal festival. Many of the rituals take place in ceremonial underground meeting rooms called kivas and tribespeople dress up as ancestral spirits, the Kachinas. It is also a time of purification, the blessing of tribespeople and homes and an opportunity for elders to regale the children with traditional stories.



Polo Voladore

Pole flying or Danza de los Voladores (Dance of the Flyers)

Mexican tribespeople in Guatemala traditionally performed the ancient ritual in December. A small group of men climbing a 30 meter pole. Once mounted, some launch themselves off the pole to dangle on ropes while the final man remains on the top, dancing and playing a flute. The ritual was said to implore the gods to return the sun.

Inti Raymi

The Incas celebrated the winter solstice with Inti Raymi, the festival of the sun. The nine-day festival included dancing and processions and also marked the beginning of the new year in the Andes. It was banned in the 16th century by the Catholic priests but was revived in the 1940s as a popular tourist attraction

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Shalako

For the Zuni, one of the Native American Pueblo peoples in western New Mexico, the winter solstice signifies the beginning of the year, and is marked with a ceremonial dance called Shalako. After fasting, prayer and observing the rising and setting of the sun for several days before the solstice, the Pekwin, or “Sun Priest” traditionally announces the exact moment of itiwanna, the rebirth of the sun, with a long, mournful call. With that signal, the rejoicing and dancing begin, as 12 kachina clowns in elaborate masks dance along with the Shalako themselves—12-foot-high effigies with bird heads, seen as messengers from the gods. After four days of dancing, new dancers are chosen for the following year, and the yearly cycle begins again.

Toji

In Japan, the winter solstice is less a festival than a traditional practice centered around starting the new year with health and good luck. It’s a particularly sacred time of the year for farmers, who welcome the return of a sun that will nurture their crops after the long, cold winter. People light bonfires to encourage the sun’s return; huge bonfires burn on Mount Fuji each December 22. A widespread practice during the winter solstice is to take warm baths scented with yuzu, a citrus fruit, which is said to ward off colds and foster good health. Many public baths and hot springs throw yuzu in the water during the winter solstice. Many Japanese people also eat kabocha squash—known in the United States as Japanese pumpkin—on the solstice, as it is thought to bring luck.



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Saturnalia

Ancient Roman festival, in honor of the god Saturn, held on 17 December of the Julian calendar and later expanded with festivities through to 23 December



Happy Winter Solstice



冬至大一歲
冬至节快乐

Dong Zhi ("Winter Arrives")

The Chinese celebration of the winter solstice, welcomes the return of longer days and the corresponding increase in positive energy in the year to come. Occurring only six weeks before the Chinese New Year, the festival has its own significance. It is believed to be the day when everyone gets one year older. The celebration may have begun as a harvest festival, when farmers and fisherman took time off to celebrate with their families.

St. Lucia

This traditional festival of lights in Scandinavia honors St. Lucia, one of the earliest Christian martyrs, but was incorporated with earlier Norse solstice traditions after many Norsemen converted to Christianity around 1000 A.D. According to the old Julian Calendar, December 13 was also the shortest day of the year. As a symbol of light, Lucia and her feast day blended naturally with solstice traditions such as lighting fires to scare away spirits during the longest, darkest night of the year.



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Shab-e Yalda

On the longest night of the year, Iranians all over the world celebrate the triumph of Mithra, the Sun God, over darkness in the ancient festival of Shab-e Yalda (which translates to “Night of Birth”).

According to tradition, people gather together on the longest night of year to protect each other from evil, burning fires to light their way through the darkness and performing charitable acts. Friends and family join in making wishes, feasting on festive foods and reading poetry



Yalda

This ancient Persian winter solstice festival celebrates the birth of the Persian angel of truth. Family and friends gather to feast on nuts, watermelon, pomegranate, dried fruits and sweetmeats and read the works of celebrated poet Hafez. Like all good traditions, Yalda also involves dancing, decorating the house with candles and attempting to divine the future.

LUMINARY PARTICIPATION KIT

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Burning the Clocks

Created in 1994 as a response to Christmas commercialization, the Burning of the Clocks festival sees the folk of Brighton and Hove gather to make paper and willow lanterns and then march through the streets on the shortest day of the year. The procession concludes on Brighton beach with a dazzling fireshow, fireworks and live music.



Stonehenge

Undoubtedly the most famous solstice celebration spot is Stonehenge in south west England. Considered by some as an ancient temple, it's the spot where religious groups including druids and pagans gather for the winter and the summer solstice to watch the sun rise over the stones.

Share images of your luminary and experience at the Shy Acre Farm Labyrinth with us on Instagram @shyacre

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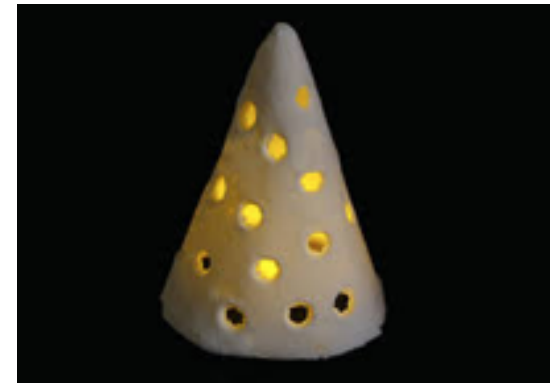
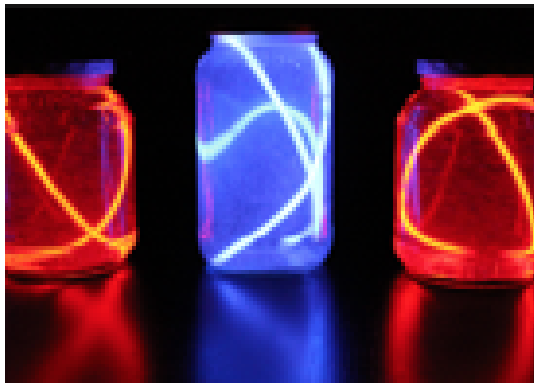
Use clear, transparent or light reflecting containers for maximum brightness from your lumens!



There are many ways to make a luminary!
We highly encourage simple creativity using recycled or natural materials.



Materials need to withstand (rain/wind) elements on the hillside.
Think about maximum brightness with your design.
Play with innovative curiosity as you make your piece!



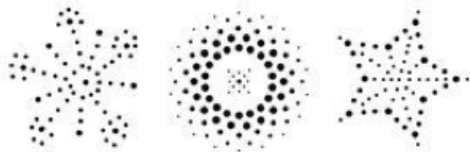
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**NEED HELP WITH SUPPLIES?
LET US KNOW AND WE WILL PROVIDE
SOME WITH OUR VISITORS KIT.**

combine, create shapes with tools or
paint, collage, texture

DOT PATTERN PLAY!



build with recycled or natural materials
hole punch, cut, drill

Have fun with experimenting to explore your imagination!