



DALLAS ARBORETUM  
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Photos available upon request**

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**Dallas Arboretum Participates in Hispanic Heritage Celebration**

***Celebration includes first annual quinceañera fashion show on September 22***

**DALLAS, Texas, August 8, 2018** – On September 22, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden will be a part of the Hispanic Heritage Celebration with its first annual *Quinceañera* Fashion Show. At 10 a.m., selected participants will walk the stage in Rosine Hall, showcasing their beautiful and colorful *quinceañera* dresses. At 11 a.m., Mariachi Águilas de UNT will lead the selected participants in a parade down the paseo allowing even more guests to see their stunning dresses. This celebration is the same day as the opening of Autumn at the Arboretum and the Rory Meyers Children’s Adventure Garden’s fifth anniversary birthday celebration. This event is free for all paid garden guests.

Among several Spanish-speaking countries and Hispanic communities around the world, girls celebrate turning 15 years old with both a religious and social event called a *quinceañera*. The ritual symbolizes a girl’s transformation from childhood into womanhood by expressing thanksgiving to God for life and by a purity protection blessing from a priest for the years to come. The party is the second part of the *quinceañera* with dancing, food and music, ending with a father replacing his daughter’s flat-soled shoe with high heels. Individual rituals can vary between cultures, but the heart of the “Sweet 15” remains as a coming-of-age ceremony.

J. Mark Wolf, Dallas Arboretum board chairman, said, “We often see these beautiful young ladies get their portraits taken at the Dallas Arboretum, yet many of us are not familiar with the traditions and customs of a *quinceañera*. By showcasing them as they prepare to celebrate their *quinceañera*, we will learn more about their culture, customs and personal stories during a special coming of age moment.”

Adriana Lopez, host of Telemundo's daily show, Acceso Total, is the emcee for the fashion show. Throughout the main garden and A Tasteful Place, the Dallas Arboretum has planned demonstrations related to Hispanic culture and traditions. Adding to the festive atmosphere are performances by Ballet Folklórico Hispano de Dallas and Spanish guitarist, Daniel Rodriguez. Hispanic vendors include Empanada Cookhouse, Topo Chico, Tamales Over Texas, who will be doing a demonstration and sale, Rock and Roll Tacos Food Truck, Cita's Salsa, La Princesa Paletas, and [more](#). All bands and vendors are located throughout the Entry Plaza and in A Tasteful Place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Studio Vargas Jr. is the onsite photographer and videographer for the event.

Young ladies who would like to apply to be in the fashion show should email Mayra Salazar at [msalazar@dallasarboretum.org](mailto:msalazar@dallasarboretum.org) to receive an application. There is no fee to enter, and the deadline to sign up and to send the completed form is August 31. Participants must be 15 or 16 years old, and they must be accompanied by a legal guardian. Visit [www.dallasarboretum.org/quinceanera](http://www.dallasarboretum.org/quinceanera) for more information and application to apply.

An advisory committee consisting of board members, including John Cuellar, Victor Ornelas, Ben Leal, Tatiana Higdon Estes and community leaders will select those young ladies based on their essay and completed applications. Each participant will receive two additional general garden admission tickets for family to attend the event as well.

Those selected to participate in the fashion show will be required to attend a dress rehearsal on September 15.

Media sponsor for this event: Telemundo 39 KXTX

**About the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden:**

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is located on the southeastern shore of White Rock Lake at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, Texas 75218. The Dallas Arboretum is also the home of the internationally-acclaimed Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden. It is open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular general admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65 and older, \$10 for children 2-12 and free for Arboretum members and children two and under. See website for special discounts. There is an additional cost of \$3 per person for entrance into the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden. On-site parking is \$15; pre-purchased online parking is \$9. *The Dallas Morning News* is the principal partner of the Dallas Arboretum. The Arboretum is supported, in part, by funds from the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. WFAA is an official media sponsor for the Dallas Arboretum. For more information, call 214.515.6500 or visit [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).

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