



DALLAS ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Photos available upon request

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Dallas Arboretum Kicks Off Hispanic Heritage Month With Quinceañera Fashion Show on September 14

DALLAS, Texas, August 23, 2019 – To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden features its second annual *Quinceañera* Fashion Show on September 14, and those 15 and 16-year-old young ladies interested in participating can apply online now through September 3 at www.dallasarboretum.org/quinceanera.

At 10 a.m., selected participants walk the stage in Rosine Hall, showcasing their beautiful and colorful *quinceañera* dresses and share with the guests their favorite traditions and plans of the future. Afterwards, they parade down the paseo allowing even more guests to see their stunning colorful dresses. 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 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.

Alan Walne, Dallas Arboretum board chairman, said, "The Dallas Arboretum serves as a beautiful backdrop for these lovely young ladies getting their photos taken throughout the year in their colorful dresses, yet many of us are not familiar with the customs of a *quinceañera*. By highlighting them as they prepare to celebrate their *quinceañera*, we will learn more about this tradition and their personal stories during this special coming of age moment."

Adriana Lopez, host of Telemundo's daily show, *Acceso Total*, is the emcee for the fashion show. During the event, there will be door prizes, including a grand package consisting of hair, makeup, photography and a quinceañera dress for a soon-to-be Quinceañera.

Throughout the main garden and A Tasteful Place, the Dallas Arboretum has planned activities related to Hispanic culture and traditions. Adding to the festive atmosphere are performances by Ballet Folklórico Ben-Hits and the Latin Boys Cadets. Hispanic vendors include Empanada Cookhouse, Topo Chico, Hive Coffee Co., Cuates Kitchen, Enrique D'Altamirano Fashion Designer, ABC Party HQ and more. All vendors are located throughout the Entry Plaza from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At noon, Mexico Lindo Restaurant performs a cooking demonstration at A Tasteful Place's Test Pavilion. Those interested in applying to be a vendor can visit www.dallasarboretum.org/quinceanera.

Participants must be 15 or 16 years old, and they must be accompanied by a legal guardian. There is no fee to enter, and the deadline to sign up and to send the completed form is August 23. Visit www.dallasarboretum.org/quinceanera for more information and application to apply. Each participant receives 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 7 at noon.

An advisory committee selects those young ladies based on their essay and completed applications. Led by Dallas Arboretum Board Member Amanda Lake, the committee, which has also been planning this year's celebration, includes Ben Leal, Lourdes Spinola, Minerva Rodriguez, Suzette Hinds, John Cuellar, Victor Ornelas, Lesley Lake, Bella Molina, and Jorge Baldor.

Media sponsor for this event is NBC 5/Telemundo 39. Additional sponsors include AMROCK and Town Square Title.

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.

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