

THE LUMINARY STORY

Luminarias ("little lights") have been used for over three centuries to light the way for the Christ Child on Christmas Eve.

Originally, Mexican villagers lit small pinon wood fires ("farolitas") along paths to their houses. When traders along the Santa Fe Trail introduced paper sacks, the little fires evolved into the Luminarias as we know them today – paper sacks containing glowing candles set firmly in sand in the center of each sack.

It is a glorious sight to see communities and neighborhoods with all the walks and walls outlined with "Luminarias" on Christmas Eve.

Now, you will see "Luminarias" used year-round to welcome guests to a home and to enhance patios, decks and backyards for small parties or large festive occasions.

LUMINARY INSTRUCTIONS

Upon receiving your candles and white Luminary bags, please make sure you have the amount of candles that is indicated on the outside of the brown grocery bag. If it is incorrect, please contact your Captain.

On December 24th, display the Luminary bags ALONG THE CURB or ALONG THE SIDE OF THE ROAD in front of your property at ten (10) foot intervals (less than 10 feet is optional) and light the candles at 5:00 p.m.

WHAT TO DO IF WE HAVE BAD WEATHER:

In the event of rain, snow or heavy winds, the project will be postponed until Christmas Night, Dec. 25th. If unfavorable conditions still persist, the project will be held over until Dec. 26th. If you have questions, call your Captain.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR BAGS:

1. Open the white paper bag and neatly turn down the top one inch (1") to the outside to form a collar.
2. Place approximately 1 lb. of sand in each bag (measure with 1 lb. Coffee can). This enables the bag to stand by itself. NOTE: Cat litter or small stones in bag can also be used.
3. On the afternoon of the 24th (weather permitting), place bags, spacing every 10 feet or less on your property.
4. Cut the wick on the candle to approximately ¼". This will prevent it from burning too quickly and setting the bag on fire. Set one candle firmly in the sand in the center of each bag. If your candles have been placed properly, the flame will not touch the sides of the bag and will burn safely.
5. Light your candles at 5:00pm Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th. They should burn for at least 6 hours if weather conditions are favorable. If you will not be home, please arrange to have a neighbor set up and light your candles and remove them afterwards.
6. Please bring in your bags the next day to avoid littering.