

(To improve your Spanish comprehension skills, please watch the presentation of this topic on YouTube, and read this along with the Spanish version of the newsletter.)

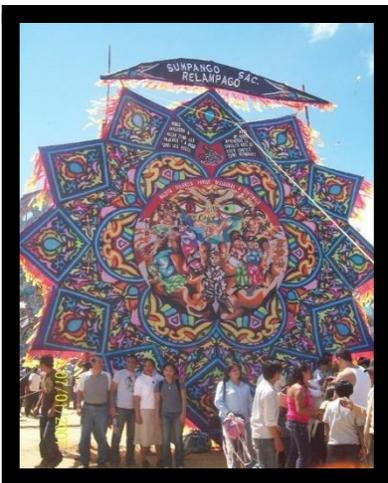
**Bulletin No. 11.** On November 18, teacher Aracely gave the presentation “The Giant Kites of Guatemala on November 1”, a tradition was exhibited that is a mixture of art and colors where messages of unity, love, faith, respect for customs especially mother earth are transmitted. Some have religious phrases, social criticism and public denunciation. Below is what this festival represents for many Guatemalans.

### Objectives

- To expose a cultural event of diversity of colors and designs that become art and to show the importance it is for Guatemalan culture.
- To practice and increase each participant's vocabulary and understanding of Spanish.

### The Giant Kites of Guatemala on November 1

On November 1, the traditional and well-known Kite Festival is held in the municipalities of Santiago Sacatepéquez and San Agustín Sumpango in the department of Sacatepéquez.



### Historical version

"In Guatemala, small kites were seen at the beginning of the seventeenth century between 1625 and 1637." However, so far the precise historical thread of the giant kites has not been found. According to some search results, the first kite was one of the many inventions made by the Chinese thousands of years ago. There are testimonies that the Chinese people flew kites through the sky about 4 thousand years ago" (AI Overview).

### What people say

It is said that at that time in the cemeteries of these two communities, evil spirits were around disturbing the resting of the souls of the deceased. Concerned neighbors approached the elders of the community and they recommended

assembling pieces of paper that would allow them to fly through the skies and create a sound that would scare away the spirits.

### Tradition and colors

The giant kites of Sumpango and Santiago are a mixture of art, tradition and colors where messages of unity, love, faith, respect for customs, especially mother earth, are transmitted. Some have religious phrases, social criticism and public denunciation.

The exhibition and the kite contest are of different sizes. Some measure between 12 and 18 meters or up to 20 meters high are those that do not fly. There are two categories, the category "A" is for the giants and the category "B" is for the smallest ones those do fly.



### Other important facts

- There is an election of the Queen of the Giant Kite Festival.
- On the 31st, a Mayan ceremony is held in which permission is requested from the grandparents who have already left (no longer alive), to perform flying of the kites.
- On November 1, from dawn, the kites are assembled in the cemetery (Santiago) and on the soccer field (Sumpango), starting the exhibition at around 9:00 am and concluding at approximately 4:00 pm and the traditional flight of kites begins around 10:00 am.
- More than 60 national groups participated in the festival, totaling around 2,720 kite artists.

### The materials used are:

- 1- Thin paper (papel de china) of different colors

- 2- Glue/resin (white glue)
- 3- Pieces of bamboo cane or castile cane (the smallest)
- 4- Loop or wire
- 5- Pieces of fabric for the tail.

### Sayings and Proverbs

- *¡No tengas miedo, recuerda que el barrilete vuela alto contra el viento, no contra él!*
  - Do not be afraid, remember that the kite flies high against the wind, not against the person!
- *Vuela tan alto sin olvidar de dónde vienes.*
  - Fly so high without forgetting where you came from.
- *El pesimista siente el viento y teme un huracán, el optimista siente el viento y vuela su barrilete.*
  - The pessimist feels the wind and fears a hurricane, the optimist feels the wind and flies his kite.

Sign up now! and don't miss our open class on December 16; taught by the teacher Leonor Chivichòn. "Some Street Foods in Guatemala" Click here to register.<https://prontospanish.as.me/openclass>

Subscribe and invite others to our "YouTube Channel" to watch our Pronto Spanish Open Class video; Los Barriletes Gigantes de Guatemala – November 1; as well as the posts made by each teacher in the Facebook Group", if you have not already done so.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and likes in advance, and don't forget to share our social media with your friends, colleagues and family.

**¡Gracias por participar, hasta pronto!**