



A GUIDE TO PLANNING

# A PERSONALIZED CELEBRATION OF LIFE

How to Plan a Celebration of Life Ceremony That Truly Reflects Who Your Loved One Was & Celebrates The Incredible Life They Lived

## WHAT IS A CELEBRATION OF LIFE?

Celebrations of life are a type of end-of-life ceremony where people come together to **celebrate the unique life of the deceased**. Celebrations of life are commonly held after physical remains have been cared for through burial or cremation. Because of this, there is **much more time available to plan** the event and to make decisions about how you'd like to celebrate the life of your loved one.

## GETTING STARTED

Before you start planning the finer details of the service, there are a few things you need to think about as they will determine the where, when, and how of your celebration of life:

### 1. Your Guest List

You need to determine the total number of guests you want to invite as this will impact your venue/location options.

### 2. Ceremony Location

Think about things like whether you want an indoor or outdoor ceremony, a sit down meal or buffet, what town/city you want the ceremony to take place in & consider travel for out-of-town guests. Then, research venue options that fit your needs.

### 3. Ceremony Date

Celebrations of life aren't bound by a strict time-frame after a death. Before settling on a date for the ceremony, check in with out-of-town relatives & friends about their situation & availability.

## USE YOUR IMAGINATION

When planning the finer details of a celebration of life service, let your imagination run wild. Celebrations of life are **not constrained** by the same social expectations that traditional funeral services tend to have. Your **options are limitless** when it comes to personalizing a the service. Take your time & use your imagination to plan a service that is as unique as the life of your loved one.

You may also wish to hire an experienced **funeral celebrant**. Funeral celebrants are experts in creating highly personal and custom ceremonies. They will work with you and your family to help you craft a ceremony that truly honours the unique person your loved one was.

## ELEMENTS OF THE SERVICE YOU CAN PERSONALIZE

A celebration of life ceremony should reflect & celebrate the unique life of your loved one. Consider ways that you can personalize these elements to craft a service that truly reflect who your loved one was.



### Music & Readings

Consider including your loved one's favourite songs or favourite poem.



### Speeches

Consider who wants to speak and what unique stories each person can tell about your loved one.



### Group Activities

Consider a group activity such as a ceremonial tree planting, a lantern release, or burying a memory capsule.



### Food & Beverages

Consider serving your loved one's favourite dish or cocktail of choice as a part of the meal.



### Stories You Want to Tell

Consider special stories about your loved one that highlights their unique personality you wish to share.



### Personalized Decor & Media

Consider commemorative decor & take-home gifts for the service that reflect who your loved one was (ex. forget-me-not seeds if they loved flowers or making centrepieces out of their old favourite books).

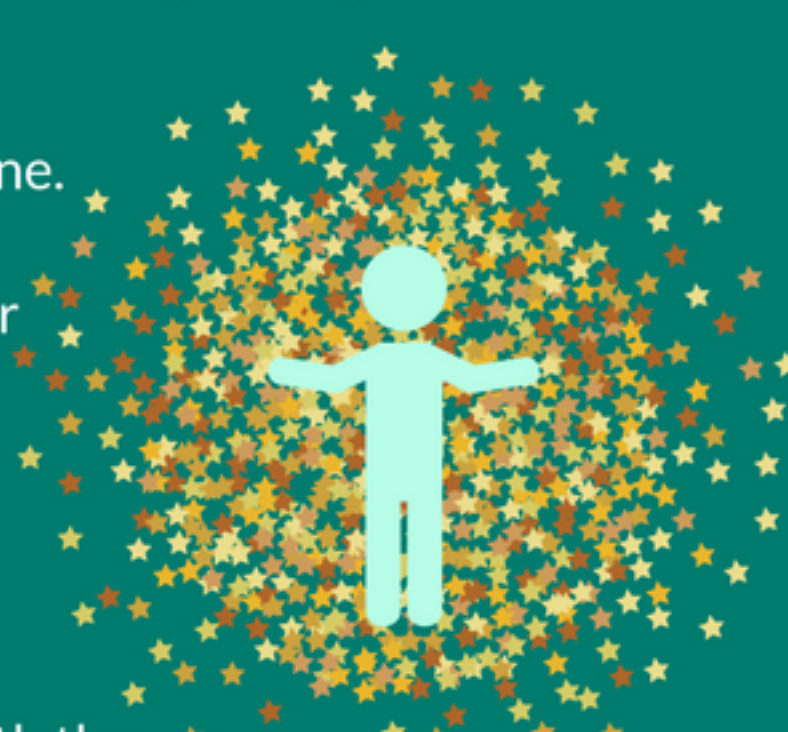
Also consider any media such as a video tribute or slideshow you may want to incorporate into the service.



## 5 SUPER UNIQUE IDEAS

If you want to take your celebration of life activities to the next level, consider these super unique celebration of life ideas that you may have never even thought of before!

- 1. **Purchase and name a star** after your loved one.
- 2. If your loved one was an adventurer, consider **launching your loved one's ashes into space**. A company named 'Celestis' will take a small portion of your loved one's cremated remains and scatter them in the Earth's orbit.
- 3. Contribute your loved one's ashes to help with the **creation of an eco-eef** that provides a home for sea life.
- 4. Have a **new rose cultivar** named after your loved one through the International Cultivar Registrations Authority.
- 5. Have a **bracelet engraved with your loved one's signature** or how they hand wrote "I love you". You can find the script to use from an old note or card that you've kept.



Sources:

<https://www.loveliveson.com/100-best-celebration-of-life-ideas-2/>  
<http://www.blueridge-funeral-service.com/celebration-of-life-ideas.html>

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