

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST 2026

CEMADI invites students of Universidad Marista de Mérida to participate in the Pumpkin Carving Contest 2026, a cultural activity designed to promote awareness and appreciation of traditions from English-speaking countries through a creative, collaborative, and intercultural experience.

The contest combines artistic expression with language learning by encouraging participants to explore the cultural significance of Halloween while using English in an authentic and meaningful context.

Date: Wednesday, October 28

Limited to 15 pumpkins

Rules

1. Register using the QR code shown on the Instagram poster from October 19 to 24.
2. The registration deadline is Saturday, October 24, or until all spots are filled. No late registrations will be accepted.
3. Participation may be individual or in pairs.
4. Pumpkins must have been carved by the participating individual(s) or team.
5. Pick up your pumpkin on October 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Language Center offices.
6. Submit carved pumpkins on Wednesday, October 28, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
7. Pumpkins will be displayed throughout the day on Wednesday, October 28.
8. The contest will take place on Wednesday, October 28, in the afternoon.
9. Winners will be selected as follows:
 - One winner chosen by a panel of three judges (a CEMADI instructor, a representative from the International Programs Office, and a SUMA member).
 - One winner chosen by popular vote.
10. As part of the competition, each participant or team must submit an English-language information card to accompany their pumpkin during the exhibition.

The card must include:

- 1. Title of the Creation:** Provide a creative title for the pumpkin design.
- 2. Description in English (40-60 words):** Explain the chosen design, its connection to Halloween, the meaning or inspiration behind the carving.
- 3. Vocabulary Corner:** Include three Halloween-related words and a simple definition for each in English.

Example

Title: The Haunted House

Description:

Our pumpkin represents a haunted house, one of the most popular symbols of Halloween. We chose this design because it reflects mystery and creativity. The carved windows and door create a spooky effect commonly associated with Halloween celebrations.

Vocabulary Corner

Haunted: believed to be visited by ghosts.

Spooky: scary in a fun way.

Lantern: a container with a light inside.

*A digital card will be sent to the participants for this purpose, they must fill it, print it and bring it with the pumpkin.

Carving Guidelines

1. The carving theme must be strictly Halloween-related. (Hanal Pixán, mestizo, mariachi, and similar themes will be disqualified.)
2. Pumpkins must not be painted or include additional decorations.
Any accessories will be removed, and WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TOTAL OR PARTIAL LOSS OF ANY ACCESSORY ATTACHED TO THE PUMPKIN.
3. Designs may be original carvings or created using stencils.
4. Inappropriate carvings will neither be judged nor displayed.
5. Pumpkin carving must be clean and precise.
Broken or patched pumpkins may still compete, but points will be deducted.
6. The pumpkin wall thickness must not exceed one inch (2.5 cm) and the interior must be clean, free of pulp, seeds, and fibers.
Be sure not to make the shell too thin, as it may break.
7. A label with the contestant(s)' name(s) must be attached to the back of the pumpkin.



*CEMADI will provide candles to illuminate the pumpkins.

Judging Criteria

Evaluation will be conducted by three judges, who will assess each pumpkin using a rubric based on the following criteria:

- Visual Impact
- Creativity/Originality
- Attention to Detail
- Cleanliness/Usability
- Theme Execution
- Information card

The winning pumpkin will be the one that receives the highest overall score.

*After the event, contestants must pick up their pumpkins