

### Custom of Latin America.

Working on a summer is awesome way to spend your vacation. Working in camp is valuable for having the opportunity to make close friendships. I made acquaintance with 2 Mexican girls, which told their wedding.

In Mexico, a traditional couple getting married are sponsored, financially, by their Godparents or special others who contribute to the cost of the wedding, they are called padrinos and madrinros. In establishing the wedding budget, and particularly in contracting for wedding services, it is important to know which sponsors may be paying for what part of the wedding.

In the Mexican tradition, padrinos and madrinros, who are bridesmaid and groomsman pairs, are considered for different roles in the wedding ceremony. Padrinos de ramo provide the bouquet (ramo) for the bride. Padrinos de lazo furnish a special symbolic rosary used to show the unification of the couple during the ceremony (to symbolize their union). Another pair of sponsors, the padrinos de arras, bring 13 silver or gold coins in a special basket or box for the ceremony. They also provide the kneeling cushions for the bride and groom during the wedding mass.

The bride and groom pick a little girl and boy to be the flower girl and ring-bearer for the ceremony.

It is customary for a Mexican groom to give his wife a wedding present of thirteen gold coins, which are then blessed by the priest during the marriage ceremony. This gesture represents the groom's commitment to support his new wife. 13 coins represent Christ and his 12 apostels.

As part of the ceremony to symbolize unity, a large loop of rosary beads or a lasso is placed in a figure eight shape around the necks of the couple after they have exchanged their vows. The lasso may also be tied around their wrists.

The priest makes the sign of the cross over the groom's head. The groom kisses the cross. The bride kisses the cross. This represents the swearing of faithfulness to one another.



At the end of the ceremony, the lasso is removed by either the couple which placed the lasso on the couple, or the priest. The lasso is given to the Bride as a sign of her becoming the mistress of the groom's heart and home.

As the newlyweds leave the church, red beads, rice or cornmeal may be tossed at them, to bring good luck. At the wedding reception, all the guests will join hands and form a heart shape around the newly married couple as they have their first dance. During the wedding bride throws the bouquet for a single women, and the groom tosses a garter for the single men. The guests say: "Beso! Beso!" encouraging the recipients to kiss. They are supposed to be the next married.

Traditional foods include spicy rice, beans, tortilla dishes, using chicken and beef. Sangria is served. It is a cold drink made from red or white wine mixed with brandy, sugar, fruit juice and soda water.

Some foods.

**Tortillas.** The staple food of generations of ordinary Mexicans, tortillas can be made of flour (more common in the north) or maize (the traditional method and still the most common in the south). Often served alongside a meal as bread would be, tortillas are also used in many typical dishes – rolled and baked for enchiladas, fried for tacos or grilled for quesadillas.

**Salsa.** A salsa is actually just a sauce, although it is most commonly associated with the red or green mix of tomatoes, onion, chili and cilantro (coriander) served on your table as a relish or a dip. Beware of 'salsa habacero' in innocuous bottles like small jars of ketchup, and always try just a little salsa first as a precaution.

**Tequila.** This infamous spirit is most commonly served to tourists in the form of a margarita – mixed with lime juice in salt-rimmed glasses. It is actually derived from the maguey plant – a spiky bush often seen growing in fields. Mezcal is a cruder form of Tequila traditionally served with a worm in the bottle – the worm should be eaten when the bottle is finished!

*The Llama and the Hidden Donkey*



*Inside the Empire State Building*







We are in Whale's Tale Waterpark

My classes of archery in the camp

