

LUMINARIAS



Luminarias or *farolitos* decorate the pathway to our homes and just like our family and friends light up our lives, these little lanterns light the way to our door.

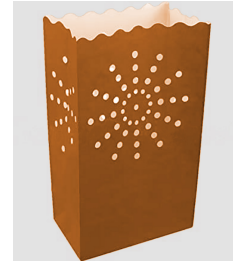
When the star of Bethlehem appeared in the sky Jewish people believed the prophecy had come true and the Savior was born. It is said that the Magi, or the Three Kings followed the star to find the King of the Jews. They built little fires along the path so that all who wanted to greet the newborn baby Jesus could follow the fires and get to him.

This has grown from fires to tin lanterns to little bags filled with sand and a candle or even little Christmas lights that are a simple to make and fun to do with kids and everyone. Or you can buy them ready made.

MAKE YOUR OWN LUMINARIAS

MATERIALS:

- paper bags (think lunch sacks, any color)
- tea lights or battery-operated candles or strings of Christmas lights
- sand or dirt



HOW TO:

1. On each paper bag, draw or trace a design like a star.
2. Punch holes around your design for the light to shine through. You can use a pencil to make the holes or an eyelet setter tool or hole puncher.
3. Fill the bags with sand (or dirt) about 1/3 full.
4. Add your lights to each bag and light your path. Alternative > you can use strings of Christmas lights poked into each bag but remember to leave lights off in the spaces between the bags on the path.
5. Line up your bags along the pathway to your door for decoration. See them sparkle and ENJOY!