



be traditional

Gown



Ceremony



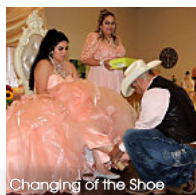
Prayer



Crown



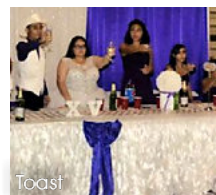
The Last Doll



Changing of the Shoe



Father Daughter Dance



Toast

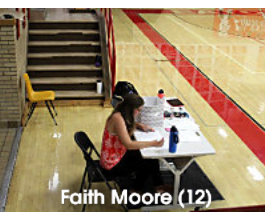
A **Quinceanera** is a celebration of a young girl coming of age and transitioning into a young woman. She is now leaving her childhood and beginning her adulthood. It is an important part of Hispanic culture, and there are some important traditions that follow along with a Quinceanera. The **gown** worn by the Quinceanera is often compared to a wedding dress. It is traditionally a large tulle based dress that represents the girl based on the style of the dress. The dress design demonstrates that the Quinceanera girl is no longer a young girl, but is now a young vibrant woman. It starts with the **ceremony** traditionally at a church, where a Bible is given. The priest or pastor indicates it, then he talks about the importance of the word of God in a Quinceanera's life. After the ceremony, the Quinceanera will be crowned. The **crown** symbolizes a "princess" before God and the world; a triumph over childhood and the ability to face the challenges ahead. Once the crowning is done the Quinceanera performs **"The Last Doll."** It is a dance performed usually by the Quinceanera and a younger sister. The performance symbolizes that she will now be leaving her childhood and passing it onto her younger sister, and that the Quinceanera will be focusing on her future. **"The changing of the shoe"** is a symbol of growing and maturing. The Quinceanera usually wears a flat shoe, representing a child, and then the father comes forth and exchanges the flat for a heel. A heel representing womanhood and adulthood. Lastly, a **toast** is given by a family member which closes the ceremony. During the toast, the family member will share all the memories they have about the Quinceanera and the achievements she has accomplished. While a Quinceanera celebration may seem largely extravagant, it has a lot of deep symbolism behind it. It is about reaching a point in life where you are no longer a child, but a young independent woman.

Customer is allowed to have objects outside of the margin.

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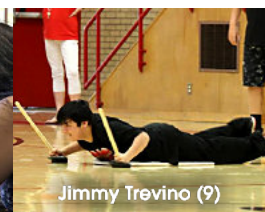
Monique Santos (11) and Colton Sell (11)



Faith Moore (12)



Cody Kuehster (9)



Jimmy Trevino (9)



Kacie Henrichs (10) and Haley Riddle (10)



Raymond Reece (10)

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# believe

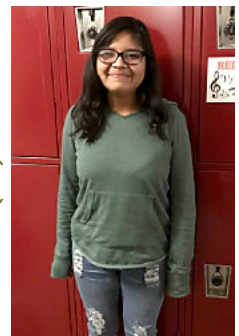
What keeps you going in hard times?

Jake Burkholder (10)



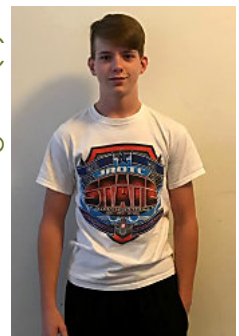
"I use Buddhism to get peace of mind and keep myself going. It inspires me to keep pushing through during the harder times."

Arli Luna (10)



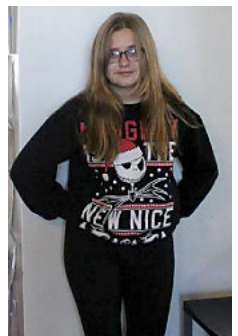
"My pastors helped me by telling me that everything is going to be fine as well as my mom and dad because they prayed every single night."

Matthew Longwell (9)



"Don't let obstacles stand in your way because God puts the obstacles there to make you stronger in life."

Savannah Armknecht (10)



"I went to a youth group and they've really helped me get back on my feet."

be strong  
-Becca Doughty (9)



1. **Horse and Carriage** was the Quinceañera theme for Gabby Morales (11). Morales explained that after turning 15, "We have more liberty to do more with ourself, like wearing make up."  
 2. **Flowers** was the Quince theme for Briceyda Ontiveros (11). She explained that a Quinceañera means, "Transitioning from a little girl to a young adult, and being permitted to do more activities."  
 3. **Western, Rustic, and Christian** was Leslie Apodaca's (10) Quinceañera theme. With wooded decor Apodaca commented, "I really liked the decorations because they represented who I am." Being the only girl in her family to have a Quinceañera she explained, "My mom never had a quinceañera so she pushed me hard to have one. Our father daughter dance was My Little Girl by Tim McGraw."  
 4. **Unique** Lizbeth Batrez De La Cruz (11) had a different Quinceañera with no particular theme. The minute she walked into the dress store, she spotted the perfect dress for her. "Being the only girl in my family, my parents just wanted to have a party that I could enjoy with my family," said Batrez De La Cruz.  
 5. **Charro** was Julissa Contreras' (11) Quinceañera theme, which is traditional for a Quinceañera. Her Quinceañera was a way "to have a fun get together with family and to make memories," said Contreras.

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Meredith Brazeal (10) and Tierra Curtis (10)

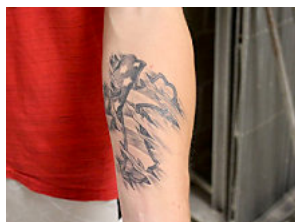
Destiny Wynn (10)

Lauren Brown (12)

Megan St Jean (9)

Ethan Maserang (9)

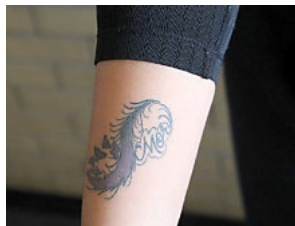
Tim Nelson (10)



Lance Jorgensen (10)



"My tattoo on my arm is a memorial for my uncle who died in the military, and the cross represents my religion."



Tianna Cruz (10)



"I got my tattoo with my mom because we are really close. I tell my mom everything she is like my best friend. She has one that says daughter with my favorite color, and then I have this one that says mom with her favorite color."



Aspen Gregg (11)



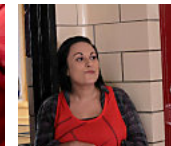
"My tattoo is for my grandparents on my dad's side who passed, and I like having this quote on my body to keep them close to me and to remind me they are always watching over me."

## Walking Art

be unique

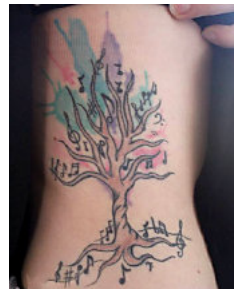
-Abigail Silva (9)

Kylie Griffin



"I think the big thing is that a tattoo is a personal choice, and it is going to be on your body for the rest of your life. So I wouldn't be hasty necessarily about getting something. That being said, I don't think everything has to have super deep, meaning either."

Jaryn Guerra



"My tree tattoo represents a ton of different things. The quote 'Earth has music for those who listen.' by Shakespeare, and so the music notes around the tree are symbolic to finding the good in situations when you look for it. Also music was a huge part of my life and the watercolors represent creativity."

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