

Instructions for Participants in El Jardin

When you enter El Jardin, you will see character notebooks standing throughout the room. The Notebooks contain the information that you will need to play the character represented. Each notebook's cover provides a brief description of the character. Look around the room and choose the character you'd like to play.

Each family notebook contains a description of the family, a family tree, a family history/scenario, and individual scenarios and action lists. Each community notebook contains a character description, an action list and assorted support documents. Throughout the day, various meetings and other community events will be announced on the loud speaker.

LANGUAGE

Language is very important in El Jardin. When you assume a character, you will lay aside your own language abilities. In other words, if your character is monolingual but you are multi-lingual in real life, you will be asked to pretend to be monolingual. Of course, when a participant is monolingual in real life, but chooses to play a multi-lingual character, he or she will experience the "pretend benefits" of speaking and understanding another language.

If you are Spanish speaking in "real life," pretending to speak only English will give you an opportunity to become re-acquainted with the challenges of trying to provide or receive services in a language you do not speak or understand.

Your character will have a language button in his or her packet. You must wear it at ALL times and once you have it on, you must communicate as instructed. Refer to the letters on the button. They will indicate the language or languages your character speaks:

- "E" characters speak only English.
- "S" characters speak only Spanish.
- "E/S" characters are bilingual and may translate Spanish for others upon request if time permits.
- "T" characters are translators and speak all languages found in El Jardin.
- "H" characters are family historians and they understand all that is said in their presence, but they cannot act as translators.

If you are speaking to a person whose language symbol is the same as yours, you may speak to him/her and, of course, you can speak to bilingual individual. If you are communicating with someone whose language symbol does NOT match yours, however, you may not speak or write to that person directly. You may gesture and try to communicate otherwise by pointing or with facial expressions, but you must request the services of a bilingual individual or a translator if one is available.