



# Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

Please be aware that these events may be cancelled to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

To find out if these events are still running, please contact the respective organizers.

When	What	Where/Contact
10/10 (Sat) 16:00-17:30	<b>Japanese Conversation and Learning Table</b> <b>森の日本語レッスン</b> Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment.  TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge Organized by the Tokachi International Association	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 <a href="mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp">tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp</a>
10/14 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Mini-Volleyball Night</b> <b>国際ミニバレー・ナイト</b> Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport. TIRC Multipurpose Hall Fee: Free of charge Organized by the Tokachi International Association	
10/24 (Sat) 13:00-17:00	<b>Mori no Pumpkin Carving</b> <b>森のパンプキンカービング(カボチャのランタン作り)</b> We will make Jack-o-Lanterns to be displayed during the Mori no Halloween 2020 event. Please come with clothes that you do not mind getting dirty.  TIRC Multipurpose Hall Fee: Free of charge (Limited to 10 groups). Reservation required Application period: Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> —Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup> (9:00-17:00)* For children ages 15 and under and their parents/guardians. *Only selected groups will be contacted after the application period. Organized by the City of Obihiro	
10/17 (Sat) 10:00 - 10/18 (Sun) 11:00	<b>Boy Scout Experience: Autumn Camp</b> <b>ボーイスカウト体験隊「秋のキャンプ」</b> Work together with your group! Enjoy an overnight camping experience. Limited to 15 participants Fee: 2000 Yen For elementary school children (for 1-3rd grade children, please contact Tokachi Ecology Park in advance)	Tokachi Ecology Park Project House 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 <a href="http://www.tokachi-ecopark.jp">www.tokachi-ecopark.jp</a>

## Culture: Festivals Celebrating the Dead

## 文化：死者を弔うお祭り

Halloween has become a major event, recognized and celebrated all over the world. However Halloween isn't the only celebration of its kind. Cultures all over the world have their own celebrations of the dead returning and monsters coming from the otherworld. In this month's Pioneer, we take a look at some of these celebrations from various cultures around the world.

### Samhain

Considered the precursor to what we know today as Halloween, *Samhain* was an ancient Celtic tradition native to Scotland and Ireland which celebrated the end of the harvest and the end of the Celtic calendar. It was believed that on the 31<sup>st</sup> October the boundary between this world and the otherworld would be at its thinnest, allowing spirits and fairies to slip into this world. Many traditions from this festival still survive today, such as Jack-o-Lanterns, which were made to light the way home for the spirits of one's ancestors and to scare away any malicious spirits.

### Día de los Muertos

Travelling to Mexico next, *Día de los Muertos*, also known as the Day of the Dead, is a joyful celebration lasting from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup> where it's believed that the spirits of the dead return from the afterlife to spend time with their families. Families will decorate the graves of their ancestors with bright colors, marigold flowers, food, and photos and memorabilia of the deceased. These visits also often involve humorous tales of the deceased, music and dancing.

### Awuru Odo Festival

A somewhat different celebration to what you might be used to, the *Awuru Odo* Festival is a Nigerian festival that can last several months! It is believed that the spirits of the dead return sometime between the months of September and November, and will still stay up until April. During their stay, shrines for these spirits will be erected and the masks that they will wear are refurbished or new ones created. Before their departure back up the Ukehe hills and to the afterlife, there is a large theatrical celebration reenacting the story of their visit.

### Obon (お盆)

*Obon* is a Japanese event about honoring the spirits of one's ancestors. It is a time where it is believed that one's ancestors will return to visit their families once more. Typically occurring between the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of August, *Obon* is one of Japan's busiest

times to travel as many people will return to their ancestral homes to visit and care for their family graves. *Bon* festivals are also common during this time, and these festivals often feature a *Bon Odori*, a Bon Festival dance.

We hope you have enjoyed this small trip around the world's festivals of the dead! Although Halloween is the most commonly known one today, if you get the chance to participate in

any of these other festivals, why not give it a try?

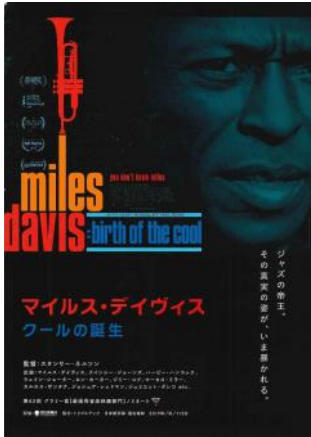


Día de muertos en Milpa Alta ©Eneas De Troya, 2009 (CC BY 2.0)

**Have a Happy Halloween!**

Due to COVID-19, release dates for new films have been postponed. Cinema Taiyo Obihiro will be showing past films at discounted rate. Please contact Cinema Taiyo directly for more details.

Times and movies are subject to change! (for space reasons not all movies are listed)  
To confirm, call or check online at: [http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/\\_obihiro/movie.shtml](http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml)



Title	Language	Dates
Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Eiga Doraemon Nobita no Shin Kyouryuu)	Jpn Dub	Until 15 <sup>th</sup>
Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool (Mairusu Deibisu Kuuru no Tanjyou)	Jpn Sub	From 2 <sup>nd</sup> Until 15 <sup>th</sup>
TENET (Tenetto)	Jpn Sub	Until 29 <sup>th</sup>

## Events Continued

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When	What	Where/Contact
10/18 (Sun)	<b>Obihiro City Ainu Lifestyle Cultural Exhibition</b> <b>帯広市アイヌ生活文化展</b> Get in touch with traditional Ainu culture at this event!	Obihiro Lifestyle Center Obihiro City Ainu Lifestyle Cultural Exhibition Executive Committee 帯広市アイヌ活動文化展実行委員会 0155-65-4146
10/24 (Sat)- 11/23 (Mon)	<b>Autumn Festa in Tokachigawa</b> <b>オータムフェスタin十勝川</b> Carve up some pumpkins in our "Jack-o-lantern making" workshop, sample Wine and Cheese from Tokachi at our "Wine and Cheese Evening" and come participate in our lottery to win local specialty products from Otofuke Town! Lit Jack-o-Lanterns will decorate the venue from 20:00-21:00 each evening.	Tokachigawa Onsen Road Station Garden Spa Otofuke Tokachigawa Onsen Tourism Association 音更町十勝川温泉観光協会 0155-32-6633 <a href="http://www.tokachigawa.net">www.tokachigawa.net</a>

**Obihiro Pioneer** can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Tokachi Plaza, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at [www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp) (click on "Information for Foreigners")

"Obihiro Pioneer" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro City Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 65-4133 or send e-mail to the Editing Team at [international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp).