

The Hmong New Year: *A Glimpse Into Its Traditional Celebration*

The [Hmong](#) New Year is traditionally the biggest celebration held at the end of the harvest season, in the end of November and into the middle of December. An event typically lasts up to 10 days. The Hmong people consider this an important time because after a year long of hard work, they could relax and enjoy the festivities with families and friends. For many young single ladies and men, this is a time to seek their lifelong partners. During this duration there are two major things that occur, one of them is the religious ritual of cleansing the home and honoring ancestors, the other is the opportunity to dress up in colorful traditional Hmong clothes and participate in the New Year celebration filled with vibrant music, various forms of entertainment and delicious traditional food.



For [Hmong families](#) whose religion is predominantly [animism](#), the new year is a critical time to [wash away](#) bad spirits out of the home so that new energy, wealth and good health are welcomed into the space and to those living in it. Ancestors are believed to contribute to the health and well-being of the living families; therefore it is important to honor and give them thanks. If you are interested to know more, [please visit](#), The



new year celebration draws exciting and high anticipations from the Hmong, young and old. Traditional clothes, silver necklaces and coin bags locked away are brought out to be worn. The [qeej](#), bamboo instrument, gets tuned and ready to be blown at the festival. For many Hmong families, preparing traditional clothes for their sons and daughters can be a year-long process if the clothes are homemade, a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation. On the day of the celebration, the event cannot begin unless it is properly blessed then all are welcome to join.

[Ball tossing](#), [pov pob](#), is a recognized traditional Hmong New Year activity that brings strangers together to socialize and sing traditional Hmong songs, [Kwv txhiaj](#). The celebration is filled with the busyness of various entertainment such as singers, dancers, and pageantry. There are competitions of games. One of the popular games is [tuj lub](#), spin-top. Among good company and fun activities, every new year is not complete without the delicious traditional Hmong food.

In today's time, Hmong people are reported to be living in almost every country of the world from China, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, France, Australia, Canada, and the United States, just to name a few. But no matter where they are, the Hmong New Year are celebrated just alike. Some things do change depending on the country in which the Hmong resides but for the most part traditions from our ancestors are still cherished and practiced today.



NYOB ZOO XYOO TSHIAB - HAPPY HMONG NEW YEAR

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