What: Boun Kao Gum
Why: When a Monk believes that he has broken one of his precepts, he become isolated from everyone else. He must stay in a hut for three days and three nights. While in isolation he studies the Buddhist precepts and goes into a time of repentance. While the Monk is in the hut there is someone bringing him food, so when the Monk is done with his time in solitude, he must chant for the man who took care of him for a whole day.
When: Celebrated on the first full moon of the first lunar month.
What: Boun KaoPadubdin or Boun Hohkao

About the Celebration: During this festival you should make four sets of food. One set is for monks, the second is for family members, third one is for relatives and the fourth one is for the dead. The set of food for the dead should be placed on the branches of trees or temple walls before dawn. Then water should be poured on the ground, which is a symbol of dedicating ones merit to the dead. This tradition comes from the story of Mahasilaveravong. The relatives of King Phimphisaan of Rajakue were preparing food to offer monks and while they were cooking the children wanted some food, so they gave it to them. When the children died they were reborn in hell for eating food that was meant for monks, then they were reborn as wandering ghosts. One day King Phimphisaan offered food to the monks but did not leave any for his deceased relatives. Then at night he began to hear noises, later found out it was his deceased relative coming to beg for food and merit. The monks then told him to make a merit and leave it for them.

When: Can be celebrated on the day of the new moon of the ninth lunar month.