

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

May 3, 2005

MEDIA ALERT

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Students to Celebrate Arbor Day at Mooney Grove Park May 6, 2005 • 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. • Mooney Grove Park, Visalia

The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) has invited students in grades three through five and their teachers to participate in an Arbor Day celebration at Mooney Grove Park on May 6.

Along with TCOE, the Tulare County Parks and Recreation Department and the Master Gardeners from the University of California Cooperative Extension will present a fun-filled educational event for nearly 400 students from six Tulare County schools.

Traditionally, National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. This year, Tulare County schools will celebrate Arbor Day on May 6, so that the day's events will occur near Mother's Day. In addition to hands-on environmental lessons and tours, each student will be given a tree seedling to take home and plant in celebration of Mother's Day. These tree seedlings were grown by students at TCOE's own Clemmie Gill School of Science and Conservation (SCICON) for the purpose of replenishing trees in our local environment.

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Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and tree care. “In Tulare County you don’t have to look far to see the importance of trees to our region – as a source of agricultural products, oxygen, lumber and shade in urban areas,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. What’s really great for the students is that they will be able to share that knowledge with their families when they plant their seedlings at home,” Vidak adds.

Master Gardeners will present workshops throughout the day with topics ranging from tree and leaf identification to integrated pest management or IPM. Some of the workshops include sessions on trees, seeds, acorn grinding, oak mulch, a tour of the Tulare History Museum, and a campfire sing-along led by SCICON staff members. The day will culminate with students from each school in attendance planting a tree within the park.

For more information about the Arbor Day event, contact TCOE’s Science Instructional Consultant, Jonathan Janzen, at (559) 651-3043. You may also visit our website at www.tcoe.org.

TCOE

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