

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

TCOE Partners with Sequoia Riverland Trust On First Annual *Oaks to Sequoias Nature Fair* Saturday & Sunday, October 1 – 2, 2005 • 8:00 am – 3:00 p.m. • Sundale Elementary

The Tulare County Office of Education is one of several educational partners working with the Sequoia Riverland Trust on the first annual *Oaks to Sequoias Nature Fair*. The symposium is designed to provide educators with opportunities to learn outdoor education techniques within the context of standards-based learning. Participants will take away standards-based lesson plans, reference materials and activities to use to increase their student's proficiency in tested subject matter. By incorporating nature and outdoor education into curriculum plans, educators can generate greater gains for their students. Tulare County educators – including teachers, administrators, after-school program managers, parents and local residents – who are interested in youth education are encouraged to attend.

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Participants will meet on Saturday at Sundale Elementary for educational workshops about Tulare County outdoor education resources and inspiring words from keynote speakers Robert Hansen, biology instructor at College of the Sequoias, and William C. Tweed, Ph.D., chief park naturalist for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Partners in the Nature Fair include Sequoia Riverland Trust, the Tulare County Office of Education, the California Department of Fish and Game, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia Natural History Association and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On Sunday, participants can follow local experts on field trips to outdoor education programs, like the Tulare County Office of Education's Circle-J Norris Ranch site, and Kaweah Oaks Preserve, Lake Kaweah and more.

"I'm delighted to see Tulare County's rich outdoor education programs come together to highlight the fine resources available to teachers and students. Hands-on experiences afforded by these programs have enhanced student learning and ultimately their academic performance," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

For schedule and registration information, **contact Jane Caputo, education and volunteer coordinator for Sequoia Riverland Trust, at (559) 738-0211.** A \$75 fee for participants covers the cost of materials, sessions, field trips and food (\$50 for first 50 to register).

TCOE

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