

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

May 1, 2007

MEDIA ALERT

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Arbor Day Celebration at Mooney Grove Park

May 10, 2006 · 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. · Mooney Grove Park, Visalia

Over 1,000 third, fourth and fifth-grade students from Tulare and Kings Counties are expected to attend the annual Arbor Day Celebration May 10. This late spring event is an opportunity for students to learn about the importance and care of the trees in our environment. Students who participate will experience environmental lessons within Mooney Grove Park. Local environmental experts conduct these fun-filled, activity-based lessons. Students will get the opportunity to tour the County museum and learn about the rich history of our Valley. Students will help plant a tree at Mooney Grove for the restoration of the park. Each student will not only learn how to plant trees properly, but will be given their very own tree seedling to take home and plant with their Mother in celebration of upcoming Mother's Day!

Teachers also enjoy participating in the environmental lessons conducted by:

- U.C. Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners
- Tulare County Museum
- Tulare County Parks & Recreation

- more -

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- Clemmie Gill of Science and Conservation (SCICON)
- Kaweah Delta Water Control District
- National Forest Service
- Tulare Irrigation District
- Lower Tule Irrigation District
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers ~ Lake Kaweah
- and the Tulare County Office of Education

Prior to the event, each teacher receives materials with information on trees and environmental education that aligns to state science standards. Traditionally, National Arbor Day – founded in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska – is celebrated on the last Friday in April. The Tulare County Arbor Day Celebration is held in early May to accommodate schools involved in the California STAR testing.

“Arbor Day is a great learning experience for students,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “They enjoy many hands-on, outdoor science lessons, plus the opportunity to share them with family when they take their seedling home.”

For more information about the Arbor Day event, contact Science Instructional Consultant, Jonathan Janzen, at (559) 651-3043. Or, visit www.tcoe.org.

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