

# 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: Annual SCICON Barbecue to feature energy conservation ideas for families 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., April 19 • SCICON Campus, Springville, CA**

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual SCICON Barbecue and Wildflower Festival will be held Sunday, April 19.

Families and individuals of all ages are invited to tour and enjoy the SCICON campus. The festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. and last until 4:00 p.m. SCICON staff will be on hand to lead wildflower walks and nature hikes. The SCICON museum of natural history, the planetarium, and observatory will be open all day. There will be wildlife shows in the SCICON Raptor Center. Resource agencies such as Sequoia National Forest, California Department of Fish & Game, the California Department of Forestry and the Tulare County Conservation Corps will have educational displays and activities. There will also be special activities just for children, including meeting “Smokey the Bear.” Entertainment will be continuous throughout the day.

A special feature of this year’s event will be practical presentations on saving money and energy around the home and on the highway. There will be demonstrations of alternative fuel vehicles such as hybrid and electric cars. Energy-saving devices designed for in-home use will be on

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display as well as alternative energy devices such as solar photovoltaic cells and solar water heating.

Admission to the barbecue and all activities is free. For visitors who want to enjoy the famous SCICON Barbecue lunch, meal tickets will be available at the event for \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors (sixty and over) and \$5.00 for children (12 and under). All proceeds from the meal will go to the "Friends of SCICON" to benefit the SCICON program. Along with the meal, participants will receive a commemorative wildflower poster by local Springville artist, Frances Pyles. This year's poster features the beautiful *Chinese House* flower, and it is suitable for framing.

SCICON is the outdoor school of science and conservation operated by Tulare County Office of Education. Over 15,000 fifth- and sixth-grade students visit this 1,100-acre campus located in the foothills above Springville. The SCICON Barbecue and Wildflower Festival is sponsored by Tulare County Office of Education and the Friends of SCICON. For more information on the SCICON Barbecue, please call (559) 539-2642.

# T C O E #

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