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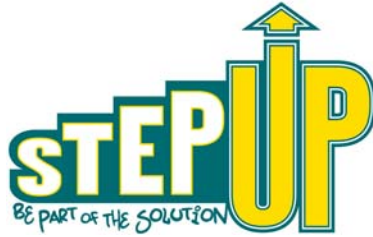
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County gearing up for March 11 Step Up Youth Summit

The planning committee for the Step Up Youth Summit invites young people to submit a color logo design and an appropriate event slogan for the conference scheduled for Thursday, March 11, at the McDermont Field House in Lindsay. The logo and slogan will be used primarily on the summit's T-shirt which will be given to all attendees. Any Tulare County student, including community college students, may submit a design and slogan. Students are encouraged to develop a slogan relating to the purpose of the event, which is to "connect, educate, equip and inspire" Tulare County young people to live violence- and drug-free lifestyles, pursue educational achievement and connect to their community. In addition to the T-shirts, the logo may also be used on the Youth Summit's programs and posters. **The winning artist will receive a \$250 gift certificate to the Visalia Mall and special recognition at the conference.**

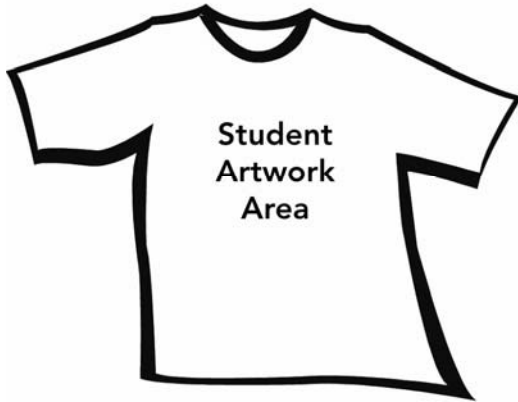
Students are encouraged to propose designs which cover any area of the front of the shirt, including the sides and the sleeves. The back of the shirt will be reserved for the Tulare County Step Up logo. For students submitting electronic artwork, the image must be a minimum of 8.5" x 11" and 300 dpi. Hand-drawn artwork will also be accepted if submitted on 8.5" x 11" or larger, plain white paper.

"We are delighted by the input students have provided in planning the event," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "Likewise, we are looking for a T-shirt design which appeals to students and reflects their vision of the event." An illustration of the T-shirt follows.



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Front of Shirt



Back of Shirt



Original artwork or digital files are due to Robert Herman, Public Information Officer for the Tulare County Office of Education, by Friday, February 5, at 4:00 p.m. Digital files of three megabytes or less may be e-mailed to robh@tcoe.org, or artwork may be delivered to the Tulare County Office of Education at 2637 W. Burrel in Visalia. For questions about submitting artwork, please contact Robert Herman at (559) 733-6606 or Priscilla Gomez at (559) 733-6326.

Approximately 1,000 students in grades 9-12 from every public and private high school in Tulare County will be invited to attend the Step Up Youth Summit. The event will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on March 11 and will **feature nationally-known speakers Gabe Salazar, Dr. Bill Michaelis and Ezra Holland, and members of Homeboy Industries.**

The Step Up Youth Summit is a collaborative project developed by the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force – a regional coalition made up of the general public, media, local businesses, faith-based organizations, schools, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, local government and law enforcement agencies. For more information on the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force, contact Jed Chernabaeff, Board Representative I, Tulare County Board of Supervisors at (559) 733-6271, or visit www.stepuptc.com.

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