

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

March 12, 2010

## **For Immediate Release**

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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Annual Tulare County Science Olympiad**

**Divisions B and C: College of the Sequoias – March 20, 2010**

**Division A: El Diamante High School – April 10, 2010**

Science Olympiad tournaments are rigorous academic competitions consisting of a series of individual and team events. These events encompass the science disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology. There is also a balance between science facts, processes, skills and applications. Locally, over 500 students compete in the annual events. The Science Olympiad is divided into three divisions: Division A (grades 3 – 6); Division B (grades 6 – 9); and Division C (grades 9 – 12).

The **Divisions B and C Competition** (for middle and high school students) will be held at the **College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Saturday, March 20, 2010**. Fifteen Tulare County middle school teams and 13 high schools are scheduled to compete. Students from sixth through twelfth grades will be launching rockets, piloting robotic vehicles, solving science crimes, designing experiments and participating in a variety of engaging scientific explorations. The Division B and C events begin with opening ceremonies at 8:20 a.m. Competitions will begin at 8:30 a.m. throughout the COS campus – with the awards ceremony scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in the

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Quadrangle. The top three middle and high school teams advance to the 2010 NorCal State Science competition on April 17, 2010, in Fresno.

**Division A** (for elementary school students) will be held at **El Diamante High School, Visalia**, on Saturday, **April 10**. Students from third through sixth grades will be building circuits, testing the elasticity of “gunk,” dropping eggs to see if they survive, launching catapults and participating in fun-filled science activities. The Division A event begins with an opening ceremony on the El Diamante campus at 8:30 a.m. Individual competitions begin at 9:00 a.m. Individual and team awards will be presented at 12:45 p.m.

“Science Olympiad is a very rigorous competition that demands a lot of preparation,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “We appreciate the coaches and parents who help prepare students for this event.”

Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers.

For more information, contact Instructional Consultant Jonathan Janzen at (559) 651-3043.

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