

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: Energy conservation to be the theme at the annual SCICON Barbecue Sunday, April 18, 2010

The 50th annual SCICON Barbecue and Wildflower Festival will be held Sunday, April 18. The event is an opportunity for families and individuals of all ages to tour and enjoy the SCICON campus. The festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. and last until 4:00 p.m. The SCICON staff will be on hand to lead wildflower walks and nature hikes. The SCICON planetarium, observatory and museum of natural history will be open all day, and wildlife shows will be presented in the SCICON raptor center. Resource agencies, including Sequoia National Forest, California Department of Fish & Game, California Department of Forestry and Tulare County Conservation Corps, will provide educational displays and activities. “Smokey the Bear” and other special activities just for children will also be available. Entertainment will be continuous throughout the day.

The theme for this year’s festival will focus on saving energy and exploring alternative energy. Energy-saving devices designed for in-home use will be on display, as well as alternative energy devices such as solar photovoltaic cells and solar water heating. Children will be able to test drive a special solar car made just for kids!

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Page 2

Three thousands pounds of beef will simmer underground for 24 hours and will be served with the famous SCICON barbecue sauce as part of the lunch available. Meal ticket donations are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors (60 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. There is no charge to participate in the day’s activities. Along with the meal, participants will receive a commemorative wildflower poster by local Springville artist, Frances Pyles. This year’s poster features the beautiful “Fairy Lantern” and will be suitable for framing.

“For 50 years, the SCICON Barbecue has been an opportunity for the public to enjoy the campus and appreciate all the improvements that have been made over the years,” says County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Through this event and the support of the Friends of SCICON, the program has grown to become one of the finest outdoor education schools in the nation.”

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 or visit the Friends of SCICON web site at

www.friendsofscicon.org. For a map to the SCICON campus, visit

www.tcoe.org/SCICON/SciconMap.shtm.

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