

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

April 13, 2010

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Spectacular wildflowers in bloom for SCICON Barbecue this Sunday

Sunday, April 18, 2010

The 50th annual SCICON Barbecue and Wildflower Festival is scheduled for Sunday, April 18. According to SCICON director, Rick Mitchell, “Thanks to all of the rain this year, the hills of SCICON are extra green and lush, and there is a spectacular display of wildflowers.”

The SCICON Barbecue is a day when 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. The SCICON staff will be on hand to lead wildflower 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 Forestry and Tulare County Conservation Corps, will provide educational displays and activities. There will also be special activities just for children, including driving a solar-powered car, building bluebird boxes, recycling games, nature art and meeting “Smokey the Bear.” Adults will enjoy a special display on solar energy applications for the home such as photovoltaic panels and solar water heating. Families can also receive a free tree seedling from the SCICON Tree Nursery.

Live entertainment will be performed throughout the day with a diverse array of entertainment, including old-

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time fiddle music, Flamenco and classical guitar, and Irish and Early American music performed by a Celtic orchestra. One of the highlights of the day is the 1:00 p.m. performance of show tunes by Troupe TCOE, a talented group of young students from across Tulare County.

Three thousand 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.

#TCOE#