

11-12

Calendar of Student Events



Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

www.tcoe.org

College Night - September 13

An event for high school students and their parents who want to learn more about preparing for and applying to colleges. University and college representatives from around the country will be available to answer questions (grades 9-12).

Dinner for College Representatives: Tuesday, September 13, 4:15 p.m.

College Night Event: Tuesday, September 13

Entry Times: Juniors & Seniors, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

All others: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia

Contact: Kim Rice (559) 651-3031, or krice@ers.tcoe.org

Tulare County Physics Day - September 15

Tulare and Kings County middle school students head to the Tulare County Fair armed with worksheets, calculators and accelerometers for lessons in physics.

Teacher Orientation - August 25, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., TCOE Board Room

Thursday, September 15, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tulare County Fairgrounds

Contact: Jon Janzen at (559) 651-3043, or jonathanj@ers.tcoe.org

Junior High Youth Leadership Summit - September 20

A training event for middle school students identified as campus leaders. Selected students learn how to engage fellow classmates in activities that encourage healthy choices and how to implement their training at school.

Tuesday, September 20, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.,

Sycamore & Aspen Rooms, 7000 Doe Ave., Visalia

Contact: Adam Valencia at (559) 651-0155, ext. 3611, or avalencia@tcoe.org

SCICON Open House - September 25

SCICON staff hosts an open house each semester so that parents of sixth-grade students preparing for a trip to the outdoor education campus can tour the program. Families are welcome to bring picnic lunches. SCICON staff is on-hand to answer questions.

Sunday, September 25, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m., SCICON Campus, Springville

Contact: Rick Mitchell at (559) 539-2642, or rickmit@tcoe.org

Cowboy Poetry - October 7

This event provides the opportunity for students to hear poetry, songs and campfire stories from special presenters, enhancing their study of American History (grades 7-12).

Friday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ritchie Barn, 16338 Avenue 308, Visalia (Seating is limited)

Contact: Dr. Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047, or glennw@ers.tcoe.org

Young People's Concerts - October 18, 26, & 27

A series of performances held throughout the county by the Tulare County Symphony Orchestra (grades 1-6).

Tuesday, October 18, 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., & 1:00 p.m.

L.J. Williams Theater, Visalia

Wednesday, October 26, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Tulare High School Auditorium

Thursday, October 27, 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Buck Shaffer Auditorium, Porterville

Contact: Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482, ext. 3645, or brianr@tcoe.org

Civil War Time Travelers - October 21

A tour of educational stations at the Civil War re-enactment in Fresno brings a critical period in U.S. history to life. Ten classes from Tulare County are invited to attend (grades 5-8).

Friday, October 21 at Kearney Park, Fresno

Morning Session: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Afternoon Session: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Marsha Ingrao at (559) 651-0680, or marshai@ers.tcoe.org

Expanding Your Horizons - October 22

A conference for young women to learn about career opportunities in the fields of mathematics, science, engineering and technology. The event provides students personal contacts with women working in occupations traditionally held by men (grades 4-10).

Saturday, October 22, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., College of the Sequoias, Visalia

Contact: Dr. Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047, or glennw@ers.tcoe.org

Step Up Junior High Challenge - October-March

The Step Up Junior High Challenge will take place over the course of the 2011-12 school year, providing an opportunity for 25 teams of middle school students to complete a project that will have a positive impact on their school and community.

Challenge Advisor Training - September 13, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., Education Center

Challenge Summit - October 13, Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia

October-March: Project implementation at school sites, April: Challenge Awards

Contact: Rob Herman at (559) 733-6606, or robh@tcoe.org

Circle J Field Science Weekend - November 5-6

The Circle J-Norris Ranch and SCICON host an annual Field Science Weekend for high school students who have identified an interest in science and conservation careers. Area students and science teachers work with university scientists and naturalists to complete a variety of studies on pond ecology and rangeland management.

Saturday - Sunday, November 5-6, Circle J-Norris Ranch Campus, Springville

Contact: Nancy Bruce at (559) 539-2263, or circlej@ocsnet.net

Theatre Company Fall Musical - November 17-19

Disney's Mulan, Jr.

The Theatre Company offers free classes, including set construction and performance opportunities, to all Tulare County youth. Fall and Spring semester workshops culminate in a recital production. Another performance opportunity is Troupe TCOE (by audition only) which performs at special events throughout the community. There are minimal course fees for classes and productions.

November 17 - 19 at 7:00 p.m.; November 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$8 per person, L.J. Williams Theater, Visalia

School Performance - November 18 at 9:30 a.m.

(open to schools only — reservations required)

Contact: Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482, ext. 3645, or brianr@tcoe.org

CyberQuest - November 19

A competition for teams of students who will research a problem and create a multimedia presentation to be shown to a panel of judges. Students utilize the “Big6 Information Skills” (grades 4-12).

Coaches' Meeting, Wednesday, September 28, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 19, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia

Contact: Dr. Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047, or glennw@ers.tcoe.org

Young Artists' Exhibitions - November-February

The art exhibitions allow students of all ages to display their artwork at the Tulare County Office of Education. Student artwork is judged by local artists and those who receive a “Best of Show” award are honored at a reception.

Exhibitions: November 14 - January 6 and January 9 - March 2

Best of Show Exhibition: March 5 - 30

Education Center, 2637 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia

Contact: Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482, ext. 3645, or brianr@tcoe.org

Mock Trial - January 24 - February 16

This competition allows high school students to learn about the content and processes of the law. Through role-playing, studying a case, and preparing strategies and arguments for trial, students increase public speaking skills, analytic ability, and team cooperation. Local attorneys serve as judges and advisors. Winners advance to the State Mock Trial Finals.

Coaches Meetings: October 6 and December 8, 5:00 p.m.,

ERS Multipurpose Room, Doe Avenue, Visalia

Competition Rounds: January 24, January 26, January 31 & February 2

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.,

Tulare County Courthouse, Visalia

Semi-Finals: February 9, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.,

Tulare County Courthouse, Visalia

Finals: February 16, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.,

El Diamante High School Theater, Visalia

Contact: Marsha Ingrao at (559) 651-0680, or marshai@ers.tcoe.org

Storytelling - January 30 - February 2

Storytelling gives younger students an opportunity to hear storytellers from various cultures share both traditional and contemporary stories (grades 1-3).

Monday-Thursday, January 30 - February 2, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.,

Elderwood Room, 7000 Doe Avenue, Visalia

Contact: Charlene Stringham at (559) 651-0562, or charlenes@ers.tcoe.org

Academic Decathlon - February 4

A competition for high school students featuring a series of 10 academic tests and demonstrations, including: art, economics, a written essay, an interview, language and literature, math, music, social science, speech and a Super Quiz. Students compete in teams or as individuals. Winners compete in the California Academic Decathlon.

Saturday, February 4, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Porterville College, Porterville

Contact: Dr. Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047, or glennw@ers.tcoe.org

SCICON Open House - February 5

SCICON staff hosts an open house each semester so that parents of sixth-grade students preparing for a trip to the outdoor education campus can tour the program. Families are welcome to bring picnic lunches. SCICON staff is on-hand to answer questions.

Sunday, February 5, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m., SCICON Campus, Springville

Contact: Rick Mitchell at (559) 539-2642, or rickmit@tcoe.org

Anti-Tobacco Challenge Bowl - February 21

An annual event co-hosted with the American Cancer Society and Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency Tobacco Control Project. Teams of sixth-graders participate in a game show-style format, answering questions on topics such as the tobacco industry and the health effects of smoking. The event gives students valuable information about the dangers of tobacco — before they enter middle school and are presented with the temptation to smoke.

Tuesday, February 21, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Elderwood Room, 7000 Doe Ave., Visalia

Contact: Adam Valencia at (559) 651-0155, ext. 3611, or avalencia@tcoe.org

Tulare County Spelling Championship - February 22

Students in grades 4-8 face off in a public, oral spelling competition. Schools hold local spelling bees and select two students to attend the countywide championship. The county champion has the opportunity to go on to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, February 22, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia

Contact: Nancy Bellin at (559) 733-6734, or nancyb@tcoe.org

Young Authors' Faire & Reception - February 27 - March 2

Student authors' work is displayed and visitors are invited to read and add comments to their literary pieces. An evening public reception for the authors and their families is also held (grades K-8).

Monday-Friday, February 27 - March 2

Reception: Wednesday, February 29, 4:30- 6:30 p.m.

(Locations to be announced)

Contact: Dr. Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047, or glennw@ers.tcoe.org

Battle of the Books - March 7 - 8

To promote literacy and the joy of reading, Battle of the Books is open to teams of middle and high school students. Teams of students will answer questions drawn from a limited list of titles released in the fall. Following schoolwide competitions, schools send their top team to contend at the county event.

Middle School: Wednesday, March 7 (Times to be announced)

High School: Thursday, March 8 (Times to be announced)

Tulare County Office of Education, Doe Avenue Complex, Visalia

Contact: Beth Olszewsky at (559) 651-3042, or bolszewsky@ers.tcoe.org

The Gas Company Student Entrepreneur Challenge - March 7

Open to teams of high school students, this event challenges students to develop business products or services that address some of the problems facing the Central Valley. Prizes provided by The Gas Company.

Wednesday, March 7, Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia

Contact: Randy Wallace at (559) 733-6101, or randyw@tcoe.org

Science Olympiad (Division B/C) - March 10

Individual students and teams compete in events focusing on the various science disciplines. Events balance science facts, processes, skills and science applications. The top four middle and high schools advance to the NorCal State Science Olympiad, which will be held at College of the Sequoias on April 14.

Coaches' Meeting, October 4, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., ERS Multipurpose Room

Coaches' Meeting, December 13, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., ERS Multipurpose Room

Coaches' Meeting, February 9, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., ERS Multipurpose Room

Division B/C (Grades 6-9/9-12), Saturday, March 10, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

College of the Sequoias, Visalia (Awards Ceremony: 3:30 p.m.)

Contact: Jon Janzen at (559) 651-3043, or jonathanj@ers.tcoe.org

Poetry and Prose - March 12-22

Students present poetry to an audience and judges at this countywide oral interpretation event. Oral and written assessments are offered to each student, along with personalized certificates denoting their rank of Superior, Excellent, Very Good and Good (grades K-8).

March 12, 15, 20 & 22, 8:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Education Center, 2637 W. Burrel, Visalia

Contact: Nancy Bellin at (559) 733-6734, or nancyb@tcoe.org

History Day - March 16

A competition about issues, ideas, people and events in history. Students work alone or in teams to illustrate what they have learned through creative, original productions (grades 4-12).

Coaches Meeting: September 8, 4:00 p.m.

ERS Multipurpose Room, 7000 Doe Ave., Visalia

Friday, March 16, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Tulare County Office of Education, 7000 Doe Avenue, Visalia

Contact: Dr. Glenn Williams at (559) 651-0565, or glennw@ers.tcoe.org

Science & Engineering Fair - March 19-23

A competition in which students develop projects that are displayed for public viewing and are judged by private and public sector science experts. Winners will compete in the California State Science Fair (grades 4-12).

Informational Meeting, October 25, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., ERS Multipurpose Room

Display: Monday - Friday, March 19-23, Sequoia Mall, Visalia

Awards Ceremony: Thursday, March 22, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Sequoia Mall, Visalia

Contact: Jon Janzen at (559) 651-3043, or jonathanj@ers.tcoe.org

Foundations for Life - March 23 Essays Due

A national, maxim-based essay contest for middle and high school students. Locally, schools enter their students' best essays in the annual Tulare County competition. One Tulare County student in each grade level will receive a cash prize (grades 7-12).

Essays due March 23 to: Tulare County Office of Education

Contact: Charlene Stringham at (559) 651-0562, or charlenes@ers.tcoe.org

Math Super Bowl - March 29

An event at which seventh- and eighth-graders participate in a day-long series of mathematical challenges. Students compete for individual and team awards.

Thursday, March 29, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia

Contact: Dr. Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047, or glennw@ers.tcoe.org

Giant Tech Prep EXPO - March 29

Giant Tech Prep EXPO is an exciting day with hundreds of high school students from all over the county competing in various academic events. Groups of high school and middle school students also take tours of the College of the Sequoias campus and visit exhibitor tables and food booths.

Thursday, March 29, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

College of the Sequoias, Visalia

Contact: Randy Wallace at (559) 733-6101, or randyw@tcoe.org

Young Artists' Best of Show Exhibition/Reception - March

The art exhibitions allow students of all ages to display their artwork at the Tulare County Office of Education. Student artwork is judged by local artists and those who receive a "Best of Show" award are honored at a reception.

Best of Show Exhibition: March 5 - 30

Education Center, 2637 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia

Artists' Reception: Thursday, March 22, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482, ext. 3645, or brianr@tcoe.org

Friday Night Live Lip Synch Contest - April 13

Dozens of middle school teams annually vie for awards in three different categories: dance, novelty and lip synch. Friday Night Live provides youth with fun, life-affirming activities promoting abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, drugs, gang participation and violence.

Friday, April 13, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia

Contact: Adam Valencia at (559) 651-0155, ext. 3611, or avalencia@tcoe.org

Annual SCICON Barbecue & Wildflower Festival - April 15

Each spring, SCICON opens its beautiful campus in the Sierra foothills above Springville to the public for a day of free tours, activities and entertainment. The program also sells tickets for a delicious barbecue luncheon. Proceeds benefit the SCICON program.

Sunday, April 15, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., SCICON Campus, Springville

Contact: Rick Mitchell at (559) 539-2642, or rickmit@tcoe.org

Science Olympiad (Division A) - April 21

Individual students and teams compete in events focusing on the various science disciplines. Events balance science facts, processes, skills and science applications.

Coaches' Meeting, September 27, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., ERS Multipurpose Room

Coaches' Meeting, December 6, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., ERS Multipurpose Room

Coaches' Meeting, February 7, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., ERS Multipurpose Room

Division A (Grades 3-6), Saturday, April 21, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location TBD (Awards Ceremony: 12:45 p.m.)

Contact: Jon Janzen at (559) 651-3043, or jonathanj@ers.tcoe.org

Theatre Company Spring Musical – April 26-28

TBA

The Theatre Company offers free classes, including set construction and performance opportunities, to all Tulare County youth. Fall and Spring semester workshops culminate in a recital production. Another performance opportunity is Troupe TCOE (by audition only) which performs at special events throughout the community. There are minimal course fees for classes and productions.

Times To Be Announced

Contact: Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482, ext. 3645, or brianr@tcoe.org

May 2012

Arbor Day - May 17

A spring event for students consisting of a half-day of activities that provides an opportunity to learn about the importance and care of our trees and the environment (grades 3-5).

Thursday, May 17, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Mooney Grove Park, Visalia

Contact: Dr. Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047, or glennw@ers.tcoe.org

Slick Rock Film Festival - May 19

Provides the opportunity for middle and high school students to submit videos they have created. The best videos will receive an award and be presented to the public. Some videos may also be aired on television (grades 7-12).

Saturday, May 19, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Fox Theater, Visalia

Contact: Dr. Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047, or glennw@ers.tcoe.org

July 2012

Theatre Company's 15th Annual Summer Musical - July 20-28

TBA

Students of all ages may audition each spring for the Theatre Company's annual summer musical. Opportunities also exist for students interested in playing in the orchestra and helping design and construct the sets.

Evening performances: July 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Matinees: July 21 and 28, at 2:00 p.m., L.J. Williams Theater, Visalia

Contact: Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482, ext. 3645, or brianr@tcoe.org

Ongoing Events

Circle J - Norris Ranch

An outdoor campus located near SCICON, Circle J provides a wide range of field study options for grades K-12, as well as community college students. Programs are designed to expand appreciation of the environmental and aesthetic values of the outdoors and to increase understanding of the relationship between humans and nature.

Reservations are required. For more information, contact Nancy Bruce at (559) 539-2263, or visit www.tcoe.org/CircleJ.

COOL Night

This is an event for middle school students and parents to explore high school, college, and career opportunities. Students meet career professionals, as well as representatives from Tulare County high schools and local colleges. The night includes presentations for students and parents.

For more information, contact Randy Wallace at (559) 733-6101, or randyw@tcoe.org.

Impact Center

A multimedia facility designed to provide unique and exciting learning experiences which supplement and reinforce the classroom curriculum. The Sam B. Peña Planetarium and the Multimedia Educational Theater offer a variety of programs throughout the school year at no cost to Tulare County students. Out-of-county schools may attend for \$1 per person (grades K-8).

Reservations are required. For a listing of programs and shows, including evening public shows, call (559) 733-6433 or visit www.tcoe.org/ImpactCenter.

Remembering the Holocaust

A forum for students to hear the personal stories of Holocaust survivors and to ask them questions. The sessions are intended to enhance students' understanding of this historic event (grades 7-12).

For more information, contact Marsha Ingrao at (559) 651-0680, or marshai@ers.tcoe.org.

SCICON

SCICON is the nationally-recognized outdoor science and conservation school located above Springville. Fifth- and sixth-grade students visit for one-day or week-long experiences in natural science and conservation. Students also experience SCICON's natural history museum, raptor center, planetarium and observatory, and tree nursery.

Reservations are required. For more information, contact Rick Mitchell at (559) 539-2642, or visit www.tcoe.org/scicon.

Theatre Company's On Stage Program

The Theatre Company provides the directors and all the resources a school needs — including costumes, props and backdrops — to produce a 35-minute musical involving up to 50 students. The well-known children's musicals offered are ideal for after-school programs, fundraisers and more (grades K-8).

For scheduling and other information, contact Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482, ext. 3645, or brianr@tcoe.org.

Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Educational Resource Services
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