

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

May 3, 2005

## MEDIA ALERT

Contact: Robert Herman  
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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Arbor Day Celebration at Mooney Grove Park Tomorrow May 4, 2006 · 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. · Mooney Grove Park, Visalia**

Arbor Day Celebration is a hands-on student event for third, fourth and fifth graders in Tulare County. The event provides over 400 students the opportunity to learn about the importance and care of our trees in the environment. Local environmental experts conduct fun-filled, activity-based lessons. Students will also help plant a tree at Mooney Grove for the restoration of the park. At the end of the event, each student will be given their very own tree to take home and plant with their Mother in celebration of Mother's Day!

“Students not only have the opportunity to study amongst some of the most magnificent trees in the County, they can also share their new knowledge when they plant their seedlings at home with family,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

Teachers also celebrate with students by participating in the environmental lessons conducted by the U.C. Cooperative Extension’s Master Gardeners, Tulare County Museum, Tulare County Parks & Recreation, Clemmie Gill of Science and Conservation (SCICON), and the Tulare

- more -

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

Page 2

County Office of Education. Each teacher will receive materials with information on trees and environmental education that aligns to state science standards.

Traditionally the National Arbor Day – founded by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872 – is celebrated on the last Friday in April. The Tulare County Arbor Day Celebration is held in early May to accommodate schools involved in the California STAR testing. Below is a list of the student activities for Arbor Day:

## **Station 1: All About Trees**

Run by the U.C. Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners

This station allows students the opportunity to explore the diversity of tree species and how to identify a tree.

## **Station 2: Insects and IPM (Integrated Pest Management)**

Run by the U.C. Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners

This station examines the interactions between insects and the plant kingdom. Both positive and negative insect species in regards to the environment are discussed and examined. Pest management is discussed using insects to guide growth of plant life.

- more -

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

Page 3

## **Station 3: All About Seeds**

Run by the U.C. Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners

This station allows students to understand the propagation of plant life through seed dispersal and growth. Students are allowed to examine different specimens of seeds as well as plant their own seeds.

## **Station 4: Museum (Scavenger Hunt)**

Run by the Tulare County Museum Staff

Students at this station take a tour through the Tulare County Museum and fill out a “scavenger hunt” worksheet where students discover historical objects made out of wood.

## **Station 5: Acorn Grinding**

Run by the Tulare County Museum Staff

Students at this station are allowed the opportunity to grind acorns using authentic stone mortar and pestle. Students explore how the Tulare area Native Americans (namely the Yokuts) produced food through the process of acorn grinding.

## **Station 6: Oak Mulch**

Run by the Tulare County Park & Recreation Staff

This station allows students the opportunity to explore the rich ecosystem within oak mulch. Students explore the interactions between plant and animal life.

- more -

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

Page 4

## **Station 7: Renewable Resources**

Run by the Clemmie Gill of Science and Conservation (SCICON) Staff

This station allows the students to explore the concept of Renewable Resources.

## **Station 8: Trees in Trouble**

Run by the Tulare County Office of Education Staff

Students will recognize symptoms of unhealthy trees and discuss possible causes.

For more information about the Arbor Day event, contact TCOE's Science Instructional Consultant, Jonathan Janzen, at (559) 651-3043. You may also visit our website at [www.tcoe.org](http://www.tcoe.org).

# TCOE #

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