

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

March 30, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: **Robert Herman**
Public Information Officer
(559) 733-6606 – office
(559) 303-8568 – cell

Tulare County Office of Education Announces: New Student Village Feature of Annual SCICON Barbecue Sunday, April 15, 2007 · 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The 47th Annual SCICON Barbecue and Wildflower Festival is scheduled for Sunday, April 15, 2007. The event is designed for families and individuals of all ages to enjoy the SCICON campus. Festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. and last until 4:00 p.m. SCICON staff will be on hand to lead wildflower walks and nature hikes. The SCICON museum of natural history, the planetarium and the observatory will be open all day. Wildlife shows in the SCICON raptor center will also be conducted. Resource agencies such as Sequoia National Forest, California Department of Fish & Game, the California Department of Forestry and the California Department of Conservation will have educational displays and activities. There will be special activities just for children, including meeting “Smokey the Bear.” Entertainment will be continuous throughout the day with such outstanding acts as the TCOE Performing Troupe and country music Hall of Fame fiddler, Del Baker.

Of special interest this year is the opening of the new “Eagle Point Village” – a complex of student cabins and instructional facilities completed this month. The new facilities were constructed to help SCICON accommodate the growing student population in the Central

- more -

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

Valley. Eagle Point Village consists of six student cabins, student restrooms, an amphitheatre, meeting areas and staff housing. Eagle Point Village will be open for all to visit. “This year’s barbecue is special because visitors can see – for the first time – the new Eagle Point Village,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “It’s a wonderful facility that came together quickly through the generous support of community members and the Tulare County Board of Education.”

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 available lunch. Meal tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors (60 and over) and \$5.00 for children (12 and under). Proceeds from the meal will go to the “Friends of SCICON” service organization for the benefit of the SCICON program. Aside from the lunch, there is no charge for admission or 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 a beautiful Bush Poppy.

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.

#TCOE#

Rel: 27/07