

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

March 19, 2004

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Tulare County History Day

Sundale Union Elementary School (Tulare) • March 20, 2004, 8:00

a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The Tulare County Office of Education is the local coordinator for the annual History Day competition. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Sundale Union Elementary School in Tulare. The local competition is part of National History Day, which is sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

History Day is an exciting, project-based learning experience that allows students to apply what they learn about an historic topic by creating original productions which are judged by competitive category. Students compete in six distinct categories: historical paper, exhibit, performance, multi-media documentary, historical website and poster. There are two divisions, Junior Division for students in grades six through eight, and Senior Division for students in grades nine through 12.

The theme of the History Day event this year is "Exploration, Encounter and Exchange" in History. Many of the California Content Standards for History Social Science may be taught around this broad theme.

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Students research an historic event including its historical contexts (social, cultural, intellectual, physical, political and economic). They explore its differing perspectives, its causes, effects and then draw conclusions about the impact of that event on history based on their findings. Judges examine the research for balance of perspectives and balance of types of research evidenced in the bibliography.

“The History Day program is structured in a competitive format, but most important are the rewards participants gain from developing their skills and new knowledge,” says County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “We are proud to sponsor this event and appreciate the fine efforts of our many volunteers who serve as coaches, judges, and speakers for History Day,” Vidak adds.

Vidak believes that the research, writing and communication skills that students gain and hone by taking part in History Day will help them to excel in other academic endeavors as well. Competitive events of this type can help students to develop increased self-confidence, sense of accomplishment, and personal pride through their efforts, says Vidak.

Two winners from each category are invited to compete at the state level. This year’s state History Day event is scheduled for April 30 – May 2 in Sacramento.

For information about Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, visit our website at www.tcoe.org, or call the Public Information Office at (559)733-6606. For additional information about Tulare County History Day, please contact Marsa Ingrao, TCOE’s history consultant, at (559)651-1193.

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