

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

March 31, 2006

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: 46<sup>th</sup> Annual SCICON Barbecue & Wildflower Festival Sunday, April 23, 2006 · 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual SCICON Barbecue and Wildflower Festival will be held Sunday, April 23, 2006. The event is designed to give families and individuals of all ages the opportunity to tour and enjoy the SCICON campus. SCICON is the name most commonly used for the Clemmie Gill School of Science and Conservation – the outdoor education program operated by the Tulare County Office of Education and visited by thousands of students every year.

The annual barbecue event will begin at 11:00 a.m. and conclude at 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 observatory will be open all day. Wildlife shows will also be held in the SCICON Raptor Center. 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 continue throughout the day with such outstanding acts as the TCOE Theatre Company Performing Troupe and Country Music Hall of Fame fiddler, Del Baker.

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Three thousands 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 \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors (60 and over) and \$3.00 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.

“The Annual Barbecue is a perfect time for the public to experience the beauty of the campus and gain an appreciation of the unique educational opportunities that exist at SCICON,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

Over 15,000 fifth-and sixth-grade students visit this 1,100-acre SCICON 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#

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