

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Final Plans Set for 46th Annual SCICON Barbecue Sunday, April 23, 2006 · 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The 46th Annual SCICON Barbecue and Wildflower Festival will be held Sunday, April 23, 2006. Rick Mitchell, SCICON Director, reports that the campus is exceptionally green with a beautiful display of spring wildflowers thanks to the abundant rainfall this 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. There will be many educational conservation displays and hands-on activities for adults and children of all ages. The SCICON tree nursery will be giving away tree seedlings, which have been planted by SCICON students. Live entertainment is scheduled throughout the day, including the talented students of Troupe TCOE as well as Hall of Fame country fiddler, Del Baker.

Visitors to the event will be able to tour the site and review the plans for SCICON's New Village. Once complete, the New Village will consist of six student cabins, restrooms and showers, meeting areas and staff/teacher housing. The New Village will help SCICON accommodate the growth in school populations across the valley.

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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 \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors (60 and over) and \$3.00 for children (12 and under.) In addition to the great meal, ticket holders will receive a special commemorative wildflower poster that is suitable for framing (one poster per family). 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.

SCICON is the outdoor school of science and conservation operated by Tulare County Office of Education. To travel to SCICON, take Highway 190 east to Springville and then follow the green highway signs toward SCICON. Over 15,000 fifth- and sixth-grade students visit this 1,100-acre SCICON campus annually. 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.

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