

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:

Annual Tulare County Science Olympiad

Divisions B & C: College of the Sequoias – March 8, 2008

Division A: El Diamante High School – April 12, 2008

Science Olympiad tournaments are rigorous academic competitions consisting of a series of individual and team events. These events are balanced between the various science disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology. There is also a balance between science facts, processes, skills and applications. Locally, over 500 students compete in the annual events. The Science Olympiad is divided into three divisions: Division A (grades 3 – 6); Division B (grades 6 – 9); and Division C (grades 9 – 12).

The Divisions B and C competition (for middle and high school students) will be held at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Saturday, March 8, 2008. Students from sixth through twelfth grade will be launching rockets, piloting robotic vehicles, solving science crimes, designing experiments and participating in a variety of engaging scientific explorations. Individual and team awards are presented with the top three teams in Divisions B and C advancing to the NorCal State Science competition. The 2008 NorCal State Science competition will be held on April 26, 2008, at the University of California, Merced.

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Division A (for elementary school students) – is held at El Diamante High School, Visalia, on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Students from third through sixth grade will be building circuits, testing the elasticity of “gunk,” dropping eggs to see if they survive, launching catapults and participating in fun-filled science activities. Individual and team awards will be presented at the conclusion of the event.

“Participants have such a good time at the event, it’s easy to catch their enthusiasm for the science behind the competition,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. The Division B and C events begin March 8 with opening ceremonies at 8:20 a.m. Competitions will begin at 8:30 a.m. throughout the COS campus – with the awards ceremony scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in the Quadrangle. The Division A event begins on April 12, with an opening ceremony on the El Diamante campus at 8:30 a.m. Individual competitions begin at 9:00 a.m.

Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers.

For more information, contact Instructional Consultant Jonathan Janzen at (559) 651-3043.

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