

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

May 14, 2012

MEDIA ALERT

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Arbor Day Celebration at Mooney Grove Park

May 17, 2012 · 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. · Mooney Grove Park, Visalia

The Tulare County Arbor Day Celebration is a hands-on student event provided annually for third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students. Students learn about the importance of, and care for, trees in the environment. Over 500 students are expected to experience a variety of environmental lessons within Tulare County's Mooney Grove Park on topics including seeds, insects, mulch and the water system. Local environmental experts from organizations such as SCICON and the University of California's Master Gardeners conduct these fun-filled, activity-based lessons.

Additionally, students tour the County museum and learn about the rich agricultural history of our valley. They also plant a tree at Mooney Grove to help with the park's restoration. Each student will not only learn how to plant trees properly, but will be given their very own tree seedling to take home and plant with their family!

Teachers also participate in the environmental lessons. Each teacher receives materials with

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information about trees and environmental education that aligns with state science standards.

Traditionally, National Arbor Day, founded by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872, is celebrated each year on the last Friday in April. The Tulare County Arbor Day celebration is held in early May to accommodate schools involved in state testing.

“Fruit and nut trees are part of the reason Tulare County is one of the largest agricultural producers in the country,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Arbor Day is a great way for students to connect to the agriculture they see all around them.”

For more information, contact Dr. Glenn Williams at glennw@ers.tcoe.org or call (559) 651-0565.

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