

# 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, Visalia Campus – March 7, 2015**

**Division A: El Diamante High School, Visalia – April 11, 2015**

Science Olympiad tournaments are rigorous academic competitions consisting of a series of individual and team events. These events encompass the science disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology. There is also a balance between science facts, processes, skills and applications. Locally, hundreds of students compete in the annual regional competitions. 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 on the **College of the Sequoias campus in Visalia, Saturday, March 7, 2015**. Approximately 420 students will compete on 19 middle and 15 high school teams. These teams represent 22 Tulare County schools. Students from sixth through twelfth grades will be launching rockets, piloting robotic vehicles, solving science crimes, designing experiments and participating in a variety of engaging scientific explorations. The Division B and C events begin with opening ceremonies at 8:15 a.m. in the COS quad. Competitions will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the awards ceremony

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scheduled for approximately 3:45 p.m. in the old gymnasium (Moro Building). Individual and team awards are presented, with the top four teams in the B and C divisions advancing to the NorCal State Science competition.

**Division A** (for elementary school students) will be held at **El Diamante High School in Visalia**, on Saturday, **April 11**. Students from third through sixth grades 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. The Division A event begins with individual competitions at 9:00 a.m. Individual and team awards will be presented at 12:45 p.m.

“Science Olympiad competitions demand a great deal of preparation,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “We appreciate the coaches and parents who help prepare students for these events.”

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 Robert Herman, public information officer, at (559) 733-6606.

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