

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: Teacher Training Offered at Circle J-Norris Ranch November 3, 2001

On Saturday, November 3, 2001, a workshop entitled "Into the Field" offers educators first-hand experience participating in field studies at Circle J-Norris Ranch. Teachers will explore and study the 620 acres of oak woodland with archaeology sites, abundant wildflowers, a five-acre pond, and year-round stream. Circle J-Norris Ranch is part of the SCICON program operated by Tulare County Office of Education. Through this program, opportunities for outdoor education are extended to all ages - Kindergarten through 12th grade, community college and beyond.

Teachers are the driving force behind the educational programs at Circle J-Norris Ranch; they choose the course of study that will meet their classroom goals. Teachers can work with the Circle J-Norris Ranch education coordinator, seek out local experts and/or collaborate with others to design the activities and learning opportunities to be presented. A field trip to the site provides the students with hands-on learning experiences such as:

- authentic scientific research investigating blue oak regeneration
- writing and sketching nature observations in a nature journal

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- gazing at distant planets through a telescope at a star party
- following scientific protocols investigating weather, soils, hydrology and biota as part of the GLOBE program
- observing interactions between native wildflowers and their pollinators
- creative interpretation through painting, sculpture, photography and writing
- examining pond and stream life and assessing water quality
- explorations of ranch history through drama and archaeological investigations
- and much more!

Pre-registration is required for the November 3rd “Into the Field” teacher training. It begins at 10:00 a.m. and continues to 4:00 p.m. A picnic lunch will be served. Cost is \$5.00. Contact Nancy Bruce at 539-4006 or circlej@ocsnet.net to register or for more information.

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