



The Tulare County Youth Leadership Council is now taking applications from high school students interested in joining the council. Applicants should be committed to doing positive things in their communities, developing their leadership skills, and participating in community service projects.

Councilmembers will receive training to expand their capacities as leaders while working alongside a dynamic team of young people and adults. Councilmembers will also work to provide meaningful service and be the voice for change and growth in Tulare County.

The council is a community action group funded by the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency and the Tulare County Office of Education, with oversight from TCOE's CHOICES Prevention Program. Stephen Amundson, who joins the CHOICES Prevention Program this month as coordinator of staff development and prevention, will lead the council. Mr. Amundson was the activities director at Tulare Western High School for the past 17 years and Tulare County Teacher of the Year in 2016.



For an application to the Tulare County Youth Leadership Council, visit tcoe.org/YouthCouncilApplication. Applications are due by November 20. For additional information, contact Stephen Amundson at stephen.amundson@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ Stephen Amundson, former activities director for Tulare Western High School, joined the CHOICES Prevention Program staff this month. He will lead the Tulare County Youth Leadership Council.

Traditionally, TCOE celebrates Red Ribbon Week in two ways – helping to organize a big public prevention education event for students and holding a fun-filled week of staff activities designed to raise money for a deserving community organization. Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated October 26-30 with some modifications due to COVID-19 public gathering restrictions.

The Tulare County Red Ribbon Celebration, typically held at the Visalia Convention Center, will be held as a virtual event this year. The Red Ribbon Celebration is a prevention education event organized by the TCOE CHOICES Prevention Program, Visalia Unified, the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, and a myriad of other county and city resources. The event partners have commissioned videographer Travis Walter to produce three videos featuring the history of the event and the role DEA Agent Kiki Camarena's death had in establishing the nation's longest running anti-drug



campaign. The videos will also feature messages from a variety of community leaders speaking on the importance of making positive life choices without the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The videos will be released on TCOE's YouTube and social media platforms the mornings of October 26, 28, and 30. Teachers are encouraged to access the videos to share with their students.



TCOE's Red Ribbon Week staff celebration will also be held the week of October 26-30. While the traditional raffle, breakfast burrito, and bake sale activities will not be held this year out of concerns for employee safety, the organizing committee is asking staff to partner with them to support the American Red Cross for Wildfire Relief. The drive will feature five donor categories with thank you gifts for each level. Currently, a video is being developed to introduce the campaign and display the gifts that will be available. The video and more information will be available on the Red Ribbon website soon.

"I invite employees to look at the level of support they gave the Red Ribbon Week events in previous years and find one of the donor categories that closely matches it," said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. "I appreciate the committee's ingenuity in developing an event where everyone wins and at the same time supports a great cause." All proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Red Cross' wildfire relief fund. To see updates on the week's activities as they become available, visit tcoe.org/RedRibbon.

Photo above:

~ The Tulare County Red Ribbon Celebration will be held virtually this year. During the week of October 26–30, a series of three videos will be released on TCOE's YouTube and social media platforms, including one documenting the role DEA Agent Kiki Camarena's death had in creating Red Ribbon Week.

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