
Community invited to nominate Kids of Character for 25th annual celebration

The nomination window for the 25th Annual Kids of Character Awards opened this week. Educators, parents, and community members are encouraged to take a few moments to nominate Tulare County students (grades K-

Educators, parents, and community members are invited to submit their nominations through September 24 by visiting tcoe.org/KidsOfCharacter. Nominated Tulare County students will be recognized during National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week, October 19-24.

CHARACTER COUNTS! was introduced in the Tulare County Office of Education's court schools program in 1994. So successful was the program with students on probation that then County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak committed to making the program widely available to school districts, service agencies, and other community organizations.

Tulare County celebrated its first National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week in October 1996 with a rally held in Visalia's Sunkist Stadium (now Mineral King Bowl). The event attracted over 1,100 students with 100 honored as "Kids of Character." During CHARACTER COUNTS! Week in October 1998, longtime partner *Visalia Times-Delta* began to run feature stories on select Kids of Character to represent each of the Six Pillars of Character.

Last year during CHARACTER COUNTS! Week, nearly 6,000 youth were recognized as excellent examples of the Six Pillars of Character.

Photos above:

~ Students attending the first Tulare County CHARACTER COUNTS! Week celebration in 1996 formed the program's logo on the field at Sunkist Stadium (now Mineral King Bowl).

~ By 1998, Tulare County's CHARACTER COUNTS! Week celebration included daily feature articles in the Visalia TimesDelta – one for each of the Six Pillars of Character.

Registration now open for sixpart virtual equity training

Equity leader and author Dr. Paul Gorski is returning to Tulare County this fall to conduct a sixpart virtual training series beginning October 7 for educators in Tulare and surrounding counties. Through this series, Dr. Gorski will expand on his presentation delivered at the first annual TCOE Equity Conference in January 2020. He will share a set of equity principles and skills to guide any equity practice toward its central goal: to identify and eliminate inequity within our school communities.



Dr. Gorski is the founder of the Equity Literacy Institute. He has 20 years of experience helping educators strengthen their equity efforts. He has worked with educators in 48 states and 14 countries. Dr. Gorski has also published more than 70 articles and written, co-written, or coedited 12 books on educational equity.

Participants should plan to commit to the entire series, which includes 90-minute sessions on October 7, 14, and 28, November 4 and 17, and December 2. The equity series is free to Tulare County educators; those outside the county are asked to pay \$25. Visit tcoe.org/EquitySeries to register today. For additional information, please contact Martin Frolli at martinf@tcoe.org.

Dates for 202021 student events now online

The Calendar of Student Events for the 2020 school year is online at tcoe.org/StudentEvents. The webpage contains dates and information on over 40 TCOE student events and programs. While restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have required changes to many of the student events, very few have been cancelled. Many have moved from live to virtual formats. For participation questions, contact the event coordinator listed in the calendar.

Photo above:

To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit tcoe.org/GetTheGallery or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 731-172.
