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News Release

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A Day of Fun & Learning at Camp Edison

Clovis, Calif., May 7, 2014 - For Immediate Release – On April 29, the Forest Service, Southern California Edison (SCE), Central Sierra Historical Society (CSHS), and the California Forest Foundation teamed up with Ayer Elementary to provide 85 second grade Fresno students a fun day of learning at Camp Edison in Shaver Lake, California. The field trip was part of the school's Ranger Week program which teaches young children about nature and introduces them to careers in natural resources. The field trip was made possible through a U.S.D.A. Forest Service "More Kids in the Woods grant", which enabled the Sierra National Forest to provide funding to the school for transportation. At the beginning of the day, most children thought that all fires and logging were bad for the forest. At the end of the day, they had learned that carefully managed prescribed fires can help "clean" the forest of heavy fuels and prevent wildfires from destroying every tree in the forest. They also learned that, in addition to providing wood products for people, proper logging can improve the health of the forest and provide better habitat for many animals. The children experienced what life was like in the forest hundreds of years ago by visiting the Native American village and historical logging camp set up at the CSHS museum. They hiked up and down various trails, exploring and learning about the forest. The children learned that they play an integral role in keeping the forest healthy by following proper camping etiquette and fire-safety rules. All-in-all, it was a great day, and Smokey the Bear gave the children a great big send off with a bag full of treats to thank them for learning how to take care of the nation's public lands. A big "thanks" goes to SCE and the Central Sierra Historical Society for providing the campground and museum free of charge, to the California Forest Foundation for providing some of the wonderful educational items that the children took home, and to the teachers and parents who chaperoned.

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