

VALLEY AIR NEWS

Air District contest gives iPods to students, cash to teachers

Calling all fourth- and fifth-grade Clean Air Champions (and their teachers)!

The Air District is giving away iPod Shuffles to students who sign up family, friends and neighbors to take a Healthy Air Living pledge!

The "Kids for Clean Air" contest runs through February 2009. All fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms Valley-wide are eligible to participate, with prize packages including an iPod Shuffle for every student in a winning classroom plus a \$250 resource grant for the teacher.

The purpose of the contest is to educate Valley students on the importance of cleaning the Valley's air while getting their families and friends involved.

The contest is simple. Any fourth- or fifth-grade classroom in the San Joaquin Valley air basin wishing to participate is supplied with Healthy Air Living School Pledge cards. Students are asked to take pledge cards home for friends and family to complete (one pledge card per person). Those filling out cards just need to pledge five steps they will take to clean the air.

A pledge can be as simple as never burning trash or riding your bike to work or school at least one day a week. Or, it can be as involved as installing solar panels on your home or buying a hybrid vehicle.

Completed pledge cards should be returned to the teacher by February 26, 2009, and must be returned to the Air District no later than March 6 to be eligible to win.

Up to 25 prize packages will be awarded to classrooms with the highest participation level in each of three different size categories.

Categories are:

- Small Classrooms**
– Ten or fewer students
- Medium Classrooms**
– 11 to 20 students
- Large Classrooms**
– More than 20 students

Interested fourth- and fifth-graders should ask their teachers to Contact the Air District: In Modesto, call (209) 557-6400; in Fresno, call (559) 230-6000; and in Bakersfield, call (661) 326-6900.

2009 Healthy Air Living Kids' calendars now available

The Valley Air District's 2009 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar is now available. The calendar features 14 pages of wonderful artwork by Valley school children and illustrates kids' ideas on how we can help clean our air. The clean-air message for each month is presented in both English and Spanish.

The full-color, 8 ½ x 11" calendars are free of charge while supplies last to the general public, schools, businesses and non-profit organizations.

If you live or work in Fresno, Modesto or Bakersfield, we ask that you please pick up your calendars at the District office located in one of those cities. If you live in another town within the District, we will mail or UPS copies to you.

You may request the number of copies needed by e-mailing the District at: brenda.turner@valleyair.org or call the District office nearest you. In Modesto call 209-557-6400, Fresno 559-230-6000 or Bakersfield at 661-326-6900.

The District is also offering 2009 Hmong language calendars available free to the public. The Hmong calendars feature photos of the Hmong villages in Southeast Asia and include information on how to help clean the Valley's air. To request the District's Hmong calendars, call any District office or e-mail: anthony.presto@valleyair.org.

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