



MID joins Food Bank and United Way to offer free access to Lakes McSwain and McClure in exchange for food and children's coats

The event will directly support those in need in Merced County

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MERCED, CA – Those willing to provide a food donation or coat to a child in need will receive a free day of access to Lakes McClure and McSwain on Sunday, Oct. 30, announced Merced Irrigation District today.

The event is being provided in conjunction with the Merced County Food Bank and United Way of Merced County.

“MID remains a committed community partner and we want to do all we can to help our neighbors in need during this difficult economic period,” said MID General Manager John Sweigard. “We are pleased to provide this opportunity.”

The collected food will be provided directly to the Merced County Food Bank, which supplies items to pantries throughout Merced County. The coats will be provided to United Way of Merced County for local distribution.

In order to receive the free access, park visitors are asked to provide a new, or like-new, coat or any two of the following food items: cereal, canned fruit or vegetables, canned meats (such as chicken or tuna), pasta or peanut butter.

“We are always in need of food donations, but especially during the weeks leading up to the holiday season,” said Food Bank Executive Director Phyllis Legg.

“During these difficult times, it takes people like you and I to step up and help our friends and neighbors in need,” said Mary Bigelow, director of Resource Development for United Way of Merced County. “I have seen incredible work get done throughout this county from caring organizations, businesses and individuals. I know as we approach this holiday season, we will come together again.”

Participants can either bring the requested food items or coat into the MID main office during business hours or take their donations directly to MID’s main park gate on Sunday, Oct. 30. MID’s office is located at 744 W. 20 St. in Merced and visitors should request the pass from a customer service representative. The park entrance to Lakes McSwain and McClure is located east of Snelling on Lake McClure Road, just east of its juncture with Merced Falls Road.

“We believe this will be a wonderful opportunity for families and neighbors to support each other while also enjoying a day at the lake,” said MID’s Sweigard. “MID remains committed to finding opportunities such as this to bring about positive changes in the community we serve and help our neighbors through these challenging economic times.”

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