

## Greene on Green

### 'Quest' gets answers for youth

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These days, Joel Greene lives up to his name.

As creator and host of "Curiosity Quest," a Telly Award-winning cable television series, Greene is going green, taking viewers on fun explorations of environmental innovations and Earth-friendly programs.

For his "Curiosity Quest Goes Green" episodes, he's been avoiding splinters at a wood recycling plant in Fontana, getting into heavy metal at Tamco Steel recycling in Rancho Cucamonga and following the scent of food compost recycling.

In all, he takes his audience on 13 green quests.

In remaining episodes, armchair adventurers can share hands-on tours of a landfill in Victorville, a car recycler in Rancho Cucamonga and a green waste transfer station in Riverside.

"When it comes to amazing, one of the most incredible shows is about recycling a car. It was shredded, melted and turned into rebar," says Greene.

"We toured the plant and followed the metal."

Greene's quest to follow the massive power of a car crusher will air on the June 9 show.

The television show is aimed at elementary and middle school-aged kids who send him on his quests.

The 33-year-old Rancho Cucamonga resident and his wife, Tammy, are parents of a 5-year-old daughter and a 6-month-old son.

He admits he's a bit of a kid himself and looks at the world with childlike curiosity.

"When I do these shows I try to be inside the moment like any kid would be - with how I'm feeling,

what I'm thinking about and appreciating what I'm doing," he said.

"Every show idea comes from our viewers - they're the ones who tell us what they're curious about," Greene said.

Each episode, based on the viewer-submitted question or quest challenge, takes the young audience on a half-hour virtual field trip.

The series is now in its seventh year.

Greene's been checking things out not only for kids in the Inland Empire but for those viewing on about 125 channels across the country.

"Curiosity Quest's" green quests run weekly, at 7:30 p.m. Mondays through July 14 on KVCR-TV (Channel 24) in the Inland Empire.

Check out episodes of past shows weeknights at 6:30 Mondays through Fridays.

Regular "Curiosity Quest" episodes air at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays.

KVCR station manager Kenn Couch said they've already done 39 episodes in two years.

"The show has actually been a phenomenal success because of Joel and all he puts into it," said Couch.

"He's by far one of the best independent producers I've ever seen. We were able to test the waters with 'Curiosity Quest' across the country, and already we're doing more national shows."

Fan letters have taken Greene to a sea lion rescue facility, the Wonder Bread factory, and the former California Speedway.

One of his recent favorites, a tour of the Jelly Belly plant in Fairfield, near San Francisco, is slated to air in the fall.

"The Jelly Belly factory was a dream come true for me," Greene said.

Soon, the "Curiosity Quest" crew will go to Vermont to explore the Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory.

"I have to do it, and I want to do it," Greene laughs.

Greene, who has a degree in communications, is also a history buff, actor, educator and self-proclaimed ham, making historic presentations to fourth- and fifth-grade students throughout Southern California.

"The idea for the show actually came from the school history presentations," he said. "Kids would write and thank me, but I would get random letters saying they were curious about other things. The show was born because we were thinking outside the box."

Producers have just concluded a "Curiosity Quest" contest in which viewers were asked for new adventure ideas.

The best quest submission will be selected by the show's judging panel. The winner will accompany Greene on a quest and will receive a \$1,000 Young Savers Account from PFF Bank and Trust, the show's sponsor.

The contest generated tens of thousands of letters from all over the country, according to Greene.

On June 25, the station will bring in the top 10 finalists and then decide the top three.

The grand prize winner will be announced on a live show July 17.

"Wow! Letters have ranged from exploring the Egyptian pyramids to taking a look at the North and South poles to see if there really is a pole there," Greene said.

For those who are curious, more information is at [www.curiosityquest.org](http://www.curiosityquest.org) or [kvcr.org](http://kvcr.org).

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## Upcoming episodes

June 9: Recycling Cars

June 16: Recycling Milk Jugs

June 23: Food Compost - Recycling

June 30: Aluminum Can Recycling

July 7: Green Waste

July 14: Paper Recycling

Shows air at 7:30 p.m. Mondays on KVCR Channel 24. For information, visit [www.curiosityquest.org](http://www.curiosityquest.org). For PBS television station listings, call KVCR-San Bernardino,

(909) 384-4444 or visit [www.kvcr.org](http://www.kvcr.org).