



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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CHRISTMAS IN THE MARIANAS CAROLING & WALK ON DEC. 15

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Marianas Visitors Authority, Team PDI, Friends of Paseo de Marianas and other tourism partners continue their full month of holiday festivities this Saturday (Dec. 15) with the Christmas in the Marianas Caroling Competition and Health Walk.

Saturday's festivities will again be held in downtown Garapan at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall. The Marianas Walking Association will hold its free 5K Christmas in the Marianas Health Walk beginning at 5 p.m., while island schools will kick off the caroling competition at 6 p.m. Competing schools will be Oleai Elementary, Mount Carmel, Koblerville Elementary, Dandan Elementary, Agape Christian, Green Meadow, Kagman Elementary, and Kagman High.

Last Saturday (Dec. 8), spectators were treated to a bright and cheerful Christmas in the Marianas Parade through Garapan, as illuminated school floats and costumed revelers took to the streets just after sunset. Green Meadow School took 1st place in the float competition, followed by Kagman High School and Kagman Elementary School tying for 2nd, and Koblerville Elementary in 3rd. The winning schools won \$1,025, \$600, and \$500, respectively, for their

efforts (original prize amounts for 2nd and 3rd place were combined and split evenly between the two schools that tied for 2nd place). Green Meadow also topped the list for best-costumed participants. Other participating schools were Oleai Elementary, Mt. Carmel High, Koblerville Elementary, Dandan Elementary, and Kagman Elementary. At the pedestrian mall, Christmas Tree Decoration Contest awards and prizes went to San Antonio Elementary School in 1st (\$5,000), Golden Harvest International School in 2nd (\$3,000) and Green Meadow School in 2rd (\$2,000) for their tree entries, which will continue to light up the pedestrian mall every evening during the holiday season.

“Expanding the Christmas in the Marianas celebration to every Saturday has provided more visitors and community members the opportunity to celebrate the season, so it’s been a great collaboration this year,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “Last Saturday at Paseo, residents invited visitors onto the dance floor and it looked like everyone was having a great time.”

On Dec. 22 the 4th Annual Mochitsuki Festival, a Japanese rice festival, will be celebrated, inclusive of Japanese cultural activities at Paseo de Marianas. The evening will feature performers from Okinawa and a karate exhibition.

Revelers young and old are invited to the Welcome to the New Year celebration on Dec. 29 with dance and music entertainment from 6-10 p.m.

Food and drinks will be sold by Country House, Moby Dick, Jhem’s, Sierra’s Pearl Shake, Okadaya, E’sy Kitchen, Hula Girl, Lyn’s BBQ, Furusato, and Kinpachi Restaurant. Games, raffles, face painting and other activities are also being held each Saturday evening.

Major sponsors of the Christmas in the Marianas celebration are DOCOMO Pacific, DFS Galleria, Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Kinpachi Restaurant. The event is also supported by the Office of the Governor, First Lady’s Vision Foundation, Women’s Affairs Office, Division of Environmental Quality, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Lands and Natural Resources, Div. of Parks & Recreation, Koblerville Youth Learning Center, CNMI Public School System, KKMP, Power 99, and IT&E.



Brightly lit floats and costumed revelers highlighted the Christmas in the Marianas Parade in Garapan, Saipan on Dec. 8, 2012. Festivities continue on Dec. 15 with the Christmas in the Marianas Health Walk and Caroling Competition at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo and Osaka in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. China is served from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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