



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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For further information, contact:
Perry John P. Tenorio, Managing Director
Marianas Visitors Authority
Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237
mva@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

MTEC ANNOUNCES TOURISM ESSAY CONTEST
Theme: Tourism & Our Community

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) has announced an essay contest for all public and private school students on the theme “Tourism & Our Community.”

The contest is open to grades 3-12. All entries must be typed and received by 5 p.m., Jan. 5, 2015, at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. Entries must include the student’s name, teacher’s name, school, and grade level.

“For the last four years, MTEC has been visiting the schools to teach the students about the importance of tourism, how it benefits them, and how they can support it,” said MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente. “This essay contests allows them to now give *us* what they’ve learned and how they feel it affects their lives. We thank our financial donors this year, the many businesses in the community who have contributed, such as DOCOMO Pacific and T Galleria, for making this essay contest and cash prizes possible.”

The essay contest has three categories. Grade 3-6 may submit essays of up to 300 words. Grades 7-8 may submit essays of up to 500 words. Grades 9-12 may submit essays of up to 600 words.

Three winners will be selected from each category. Prizes for grades 3-8 are \$50 (1st place), \$30 (2nd place), and \$20 (3rd place). Prizes from grades 9-12 are \$75 and 1 roundtrip ticket to 2015 MY WAVE Tourism Summit in Guam (non-transferable 1st place), \$60 (2nd place), \$50 (3rd place).

Last year's 1st place high school winner Mary Grace Tiglao won a trip to attend the Guam Tourism Summit.

“Tourism runs the CNMI. If we work together to maintain and take care of our island home, we’re not just making it appealing for others to see but we’re also preserving all of its natural beauty for our future generations to enjoy....So what are you waiting for? Why not help out?” Tiglao wrote.

Winners will be announced at MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015. For more information, contact MVA Community Projects Assistant Charlene Mendoza at cmendoza@mymarianas.com or 670.664.3210.



Mary Grace Tiglao, right, attended the Guam Tourism Summit in January 2014 after winning the high division of the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) essay contest on tourism. Tiglao was joined by her parents and MTEC Board Member Larry Lee, second from right.

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 and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. China is served from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Russia is served via Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan via Guam. United States mainland connections can be made by United Airlines to Saipan via Guam, and Delta Airlines from the west coast to Saipan via Narita. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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