



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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**MTEC HELPS STUDENTS ENGAGE SPORTS TOURISM**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) is giving students hands-on experience with sports tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands. Members of the MY WAVE Clubs were invited by the MTEC to enter the “Hafa Adai 5K Run” and get involved with the various sports events featuring the beauty of Saipan’s environment.

MTEC sponsored 137 student participants in the April 26, 2014, Hafa Adai 5K Run, which had 883 total participants. MTEC also sponsored students in the Pacific Islands Club Road Race (Half Marathon and 10k) held in November 2013.

“We spend a lot of time visiting the schools talking with the students about the importance of tourism and the annual signature events organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority to attract visitors,” said MTEC Chairman Vicky Benavente. “The MTEC Board decided to give students a taste of what sports tourism is all about by giving them the chance to participate in a few races.”

The Hafa Adai 5K Run was the first of its kind in Saipan and was held to raise funds for the Saipan Salvation Army.

“Some of the Club members commented that they would be happy to run again next year, because this was a fun event and it was to help raise funds for charity too,” said Benavente.

Student groups have also become more active in participating as volunteers for annual signature events, such as last month’s Saipan Marathon.



Students of Garapan Elementary MY WAVE Club participated in the Hafa Adai 5K Run on April 26, 2014, in Saipan with the sponsorship of Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC). Their registration fees were sponsored by MTEC to help give students first-hand experience with sports tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Students of Saipan Southern High MY WAVE Club participated in the Hafa Adai 5K Run on April 26, 2014, in Saipan with the sponsorship of Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC). Their registration fees were sponsored by MTEC to help give students first-hand experience with sports tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Students of Marianas High participated in the Hafa Adai 5K Run on April 26, 2014, in Saipan with the sponsorship of Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC). Their registration fees were sponsored by MTEC to help give students first-hand experience with sports tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Students of Hopwood Jr. High MY WAVE Club participated in the Hafa Adai 5K Run on April 26, 2014, in Saipan with the sponsorship of Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC). Their registration fees were sponsored by MTEC to help give students first-hand experience with sports tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands.

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. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hangzhou and Wuhan to Saipan is available. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made by Delta Air Lines to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and United Airlines via Guam. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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