



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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WRESTLING FEDERATION GRAPPLES WITH 200 LBS. OF TRASH

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) –The Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation wrestled nearly 200 lbs. of trash from Forbidden Is. beach through their recent participation in the Marianas Visitors Authority's (MVA) Beautify My Marianas campaign.

Three members of the federation and another beachgoer collected more than nine trash bags full of trash on Dec. 23, 2014, including plastic water bottles, Styrofoam, fishing debris, and a homemade raft.

“That alone was at least 120 lbs.,” said federation president Jason Tarkong. “We had to cut it up into pieces and use the rope and net to secure all the trash and haul it up together.

The team met at 8 a.m. to begin the cleanup and accomplished their task by 11:30 a.m.

“Climbing back up that mountain made the weight of the trash twice as heavy,” said Tarkong. “Almost three-quarters of the way, the plastic bags were falling apart from getting torn on tree branches and rocks, so we needed to break it down and make several trips up and down.”

Tarkong also credited another island resident who joined their effort.

“John (Kepford) from the National Park Service arrived there as we were picking up trash and offered to help us when he realized what we were doing,” said Tarkong. “We pushed hard

and got it done, (but it) felt like we climbed Mt. Everest. This was probably one of the hardest things I've ever done.”

The “Beautify My Marianas” program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas. For more information or an application for “Beautify My Marianas” visit the MVA homepage at www.mymarianas.com.



From left, community volunteer John Kepford and Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation members Shane Alvarez and Vince Masga collected and hauled nearly 200 lbs. of trash out of Forbidden Is. Beach on Dec. 23, 2014, as part of the “Beautify My Marianas” program administered by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



President Jason Tarkong of Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation, right, and John Kepford (not pictured) collected and hauled nearly 200 lbs. of trash out of Forbidden Is. Beach on Dec. 23, 2014, including a makeshift plastic raft. From left are Shane Alvarez, Vince Masga, and Tarkong.



From left, Vince Masga, Shane Alvarez, and President Jason Tarkong of Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation collected and hauled nearly 200 lbs. of trash out of Forbidden Is. Beach on Dec. 23, 2014.

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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