



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

**JUDY TORRES**  
MVA ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**MVA ESSAY CONTEST DEADLINE ON APRIL 11, 2016**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) announces a student essay contest open to all CNMI public and private school students Grades 3-12. The deadline to submit to MVA offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota offices is 5 p.m. on Monday (April 11).

The theme of the contest is, “How Can I Support the Tourism Industry?” All entries must be typed and include: student name, teacher name, school, and grade level. In addition, maximum essay lengths are 300 words for Grades 3-6, 500 words for grades 7-9, and 600 words for grades 10-12.

“Tourism is everybody’s business, and we’re looking forward to hearing much our young people know about the industry and how they feel they can contribute to it,” said MVA Acting Managing Director Judy Torres. “The MVA and Marianas Tourism Education Council visit the schools every year to educate students on the industry, so we are looking forward to some well-informed thoughts from our next generation.”

Winners will be announced at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 7, 2016 (winners’ schools will also be notified). Also, the following cash prizes will be awarded:

CATEGORY I: Grades 3 - 6

- Prizes: \$50 (1ST place), \$30 (2nd place), \$20 (3rd place)

CATEGORY II: Grades 7-9

- Prizes: \$50 (1ST place), \$30 (2nd place), \$20 (3rd place)

CATEGORY III: Grades 10-12

- Prizes: \$75 (1st place), \$60 (2nd place), \$50 (3rd place)

By entering, contestants and their guardians agree to allow MVA to use their name, image, and essay for promotional purposes. For more information, contact Catherine Perry at [cperry@integrity-communications.net](mailto:cperry@integrity-communications.net) or 670.288.8433.

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 daily flights from Seoul and Busan and Jeju Air provides daily service from Seoul. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, 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. Russian and Taiwanese visitors usually arrive via Seoul. For more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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