



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**

## **News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**For Immediate Release- Aug. 9, 2023**

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### **MTEC PAYS OFF: BEACH CLEANUPS TO BALANCE SHEETS**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – With registration now open for the 2023 Marianas Tourism Golf Classic on Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course in Saipan, the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) is counting on a good turnout to support its community outreach and school tourism MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs.

And speaking of counting, Finance Manager Franco Santos recently shared his experience being a member of MY WAVE Club for two years at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, where he participated in beach cleanups, attended tourism-related seminars, and joined cultural dance clubs. Santos said he joined the club because he was interested in learning about tourism.

“I learned the importance of our tourism industry, how to welcome our visitors and learn what job opportunities are out there in the hotel and tourism industry,” he said. “I participated in beach cleanups, attended tourism-related seminars, and joined cultural dance clubs.”

Santos’ first job upon high school graduation was at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. While working, he earned a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Business Management and Accounting

Concentration from Northern Marianas College, and now serves as a Finance Manager at the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations (MANGO). He continues to enjoy many of the same experiences' visitors look for when they visit The Marianas.

“I love to play golf, go hiking, go to the beach, and spend time with my small family exploring our beautiful islands and what it has to offer,” said Santos. “When I see tourists around, I always think of what I learned from MY WAVE Club. We need to treat our visitors with respect, welcome them with open arms, and treat them like family. Treating them like family makes the relationship more impactful and meaningful so that when they go back home, all the stories they tell their family and friends will be genuine and authentic, even the smallest gesture will go a long way. I love seeing tourists roam our streets, soaking in the hot sun at the beaches and exploring our beautiful islands.”

Santos also volunteers his time to assist with numerous golf tournaments, including the 2023 Marianas Tourism Golf Classic.

“I love what the MY WAVE Club is doing and even though we've been hit with so many adversities in the past years and our tourism industry is not where we would like it to be, we need to keep moving forward and keep our head up to make things better,” he said.

Tournament registration forms and sponsorship details are now available on The Marianas Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

“It's inspiring to hear from former MYWAVE Club students and realize just how much their lives were impacted by joining the Club,” said MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente.

Registration is \$120 until August 25, 2023. After August 25, registration increases to \$140. Optional play is \$30. Registration -including payment – is being accepted at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (credit card or cash only) and the Marianas Visitors Authority office (cash or check only) on Beach Rd., Garapan, in the Gold Beach Hotel building. Checks should be made payable to Marianas Tourism Education Council.

For more information, contact Marianas Tourism Golf Classic Committee Chairman Martin Duenas at [mduenas@mymarianas.com](mailto:mduenas@mymarianas.com) or committee member Jack Aranda at [jaranda@mymarianas.com](mailto:jaranda@mymarianas.com) or call 1.670.664.3200/1.

The Marianas is an archipelago of 14 islands - including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota - in the Western Pacific. The Marianas are home to indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people, as well as over 20 different ethnicities from around the world who live and work in this harmonious tropical paradise. Ancient latte stone limestone monoliths, traditional nature-based ocean navigation not reliant on modern technology, and a culture seasoned by East and West influences are just a few of the experiences found in The Marianas, where pristine sea, sand, and skies are only a 3-4 hour flight from major Asian gateway cities. The Marianas is the first destination with a travel bubble agreement with South Korea, where Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights to Saipan from Seoul-Incheon. United Airlines flies three times a week from Tokyo, Japan, and daily from Guam. Interisland travel between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is provided by Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), Facebook/VisitTheMarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

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