

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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2011 Summer Youth Swimming and Water Safety Instruction Program Orientation kicked-off for Participants and Parents today

Hagatna, Mon., June 20, 2011- Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam in partnership with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Prevention & Training Branch, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Guam Chamber of Commerce kicked off the 16th Annual Summer Youth Swimming and Water Safety Instruction Program with an orientation day for participants and parents. This orientation was held at the Hagatna Swimming Pool on Friday June 17, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants were eager to get in the water for the swimming skills assessment.

Over 200 kids between 5-15 years of age participate in this six-week summer program which offers two sessions of activities from June 21 - July 29, 2011. Children participate in a range of fun-filled activities including swimming and water safety lessons, tennis, drug prevention/awareness presentations, and workshops that help to build self-esteem, foster team building, develop personal skills for conflict resolution, peer mediation, and overall improved health. Additionally, a nationally recognized, evidence-based program called Positive Action that aims to foster positive reinforcement among the participants, youth and adult staff, will be conducted with a goal to improve various areas of life including school, behavior and overall character.

According to the Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, students receiving Positive Action showed the following results:

- 21% improvement on state reading tests
- 51% improvement on state math tests
- 70% fewer suspensions
- 15% less absenteeism

This study reaffirms the U.S. Department of Education What Works Clearinghouse top rating of "positive effects" on both academics and behavior.

- More -

For more information, contact DMHSA's Prevention and Training Branch at 671-477-9079~83, or visit www.peaceguam.org and www.positiveaction.net.

Photo caption:

Patrick Leddy, Guam Chamber of Commerce President, welcomes youth participants and their parents to the 2011 Summer Youth Swimming and Water Safety Instruction Program

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