



SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

PAGA's eagerly awaited Summer Youth Camp was held on May 29-30 at the CGM Jabez Campsite in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Twenty eight youth participated with a mix of new and previous attendees.

This year's camp had outdoor team building activities balanced with topics on deeper knowledge and spirituality facilitated by Rev. Lito Gaddi.

For the next three years the theme: 'Key Life Skills: THINK. ACT. and GROW' will focus on developing PAGA's youth into more functioning individuals learning life skills such as critical and creative thinking, decision making, effective communication, and skills for developing healthy relationships and a positive self concept.



Senior High School Graduates



Grade 10 Completers

Some feedback from the participants:

- Activities were exciting; we were encouraged to communicate with each other and actively involved in all activities;
- Learned to respect others' opinions, to make plans and the decision to finish tasks strategically and carefully.
- It is nice to hear the word of God; facing troubles with the guidance of God Almighty.

The 2nd day's culminating activities had ED Deanna Bajar give an inspirational message to the campers and gave recognition to PAGA's 10 Senior High graduates and the 5 Grade 10 completers present. Finally, Certificates of Participation were distributed. [Click here for comments from Angelica Toniza, an attendee](#)

MEMORIAL DAY



PAGA attends the annual Memorial Day ceremony held at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, to remember and honor those who died in active military service. This year the ceremony was held on May 26 and PAGA was represented by 7 student beneficiaries, 2 parents and 4 staff. Also present were Trustees, led by President Terry Haas (he presented the wreath offering), Ms. May Chavez-Thorsen, and Ms. Lisa Pagkalinawan.

BALIK ESKWELA

Since Education is a core program, PAGA helps its beneficiaries to develop their academic skills, and to develop relationships by enabling students to work with their peers, throughout their schooling and beyond.

This current SY2019-2020, most classes started in June, while August was the start for college students. This school year we are assisting 81 Filipino-Amerasian students from elementary to college as well as those enrolled in Alternative Learning System (ALS).

The Annual Balik Eskwela program was held for Angeles based beneficiaries on May 23 and followed on June 1 for beneficiaries in NCR, Region IV-A and those from Bulacan (part of Region III) held at the PAGA office.

The Angeles based beneficiaries had their Balik Eskwela cum Summer Activity at Villa Albina Resort, Diamond Subdivision with 35 beneficiaries and their family members attending. They had a "Having Fun Together" activity where participants wrote about an enjoyable moment with their family and emphasized their pleasant interaction and good relationship with one another. All of the students received their educational assistance in the form of school supplies and uniform/shoes assistance. Meals served, and afterwards the kids enjoyed swimming.

The Balik Eskwela activity at the PAGA office on June 1st was a venue for students' updates, review of PAGA programs and services, as well as their counterpart responsibilities as beneficiaries.



Marion Terrence Greason with SW Phen



Mathew & James Martin with SW Rory



ED Bajar with Lianne Jane and Leila Joy Lopez with mother Leilanie (AAP)

MEDICAL AND DENTAL CHECK-UP

In preparation for school opening, a medical/dental check-up activity was also held simultaneously during the Balik Eskwela distribution of school supplies to beneficiaries on June 1.

The health care activity catered to 44 beneficiaries (30 students and 14 family members) was beneficial to them, addressing their medical/dental concerns.

We thank the Bureau of Fire Protection Medical Service Division National Headquarters in Quezon City for their continued support of providing their services with its medical team of a doctor, dentist, and a nurse.



PAGA YOUTH JOINS U.S. FLAG DAY CELEBRATION

Our PAGA youth participated once more in the annual US Flag Day Celebration of Manila Elks Lodge No. 761 on June 15, at the Manila Elks Club, Corinthian Plaza, Makati City.

The yearly affair honors the American Flag, and commemorates the historical events surrounding each of the eight flag designs and the nation's adoption of these flags.. The gathering was also the reaffirmation of their pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Five out of ten youth in attendance served as flag bearers, they were Dimuel Gullas, JM Franz Soriano, Patricia Borromeo, Angelica Toniza and Ladyheart Garcia. Thankful Lodge Board and members congratulated them for their participation in the celebration.

The activity was another experience for our PAGA youth, especially for the first timers, learning the history and meaning of each of the American flag's design. Also, the warm welcome from the Elks members delighted the youth and were likewise overwhelmed with the prepared school bags with assorted freebies handed over by the Lodge's officers.



Delighted PAGA youth with their gifts joyfully pose with Lodge Treasurer PER Larry Thomas and Ms. May Chavez-Thorrsen (PAGA Trustee)



The Elks officers Lodge Secretary Bro. Brian Rinaldi and Pres. Bro. Aaron Key do a souvenir photo with PAGA youth



JM Soriano proudly carries the US flag

Angelica Toniza's Summer Youth Camp Write-up

You Can do Anything but not Everything

No one is perfect, but if you have GOD in your heart you will be perfect.

Ugly, chubby, unkind, stupid, fool are some of words we always hear from the people who judge us. Words that break our pure hearts. Judgmental people always see the bad things about us even if you do good for them.

In this 2019 Camping at Jabez Campsite Dasmariñas City, I realized that time I am still valuable in this world, I also realized you don't need to BE PERFECT but the most important thing is to do GOOD deeds to the people that surrounds us.

Many times we decide without thinking the result or what will happen next. After this camping it taught me and enhanced my understanding to THINK first before I ACT and it make sense because of my act and my decision I learn from it and GROW at the same time.

This camping help me to realize many things like to help me to be firm in making a decision and trusting myself. Help me to trust others and realize that there are people who help me, people who guide me through the hard times, made me realized to fight for my dreams even there are people who will stop me, who will judge my ability. It taught me to be respectful and be down to earth even I am at the top. Always look back to the people who help and people who motivated me to go on.

2019 Summer Youth Camp with a Theme: "Key Life Skills: Think. Act. Grow" is an event I will never forget because I have fun and have lots of learning. The obstacle course and several games made me strong and taught me to fight and face the reality of life.

Thank you PAGA for the great experienced.

Angelica Toniza
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