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Rongelap boys win in Oahu

By LEO LEWIS

Young Boy Scouts from Rongelap/Mejatto Elementary School are back after successful participation in a big Boy Scout Jamboree in Oahu, Hawaii.

The proud team brought home eight awards for winning events in the big Hawaii competition. They were competing against 11 other scout troops with more than 300 scouts involved.

The Rongelap scouts participated in the one-week jamboree, and also did some sight-seeing and visiting to Honolulu Zoo, Sea Life Park, Diamond Head, Water Adventure Park, Pearl Harbor, and the Arizona Memorial.

They were hosted by Boy Scouts of America coordinator for Marshall Islands Robert Nakagawa, and invited his nephew Myles Nakagawa to join the Rongelap scout troop due to his delay of registration.

Rongelap/Mejatto scout masters Viliane and Sivoki Kuilamu said their expectation of this first time for the Mejatto group to participate was “just going there and coming back with nothing.”

“It was our first time,” said Viliane. “And I never thought we’d win. But when we did and received many certificates on the last day, I felt like I was their father because I was very happy and proud of them.”

The games included giant clove hitch (tying knots), spider web (escaping from a roped cage), horizontal wall (racing against the wall from one end across to the other), toss the line (cowboy rope toss), nature scavenger hunt, isotope (swimming and rescuing teammates), tug of war, and best troop spirit (overall conduct).

Sivoki said that of the eight prizes they won, five were first place, two second, and one third. They won twice in the horizontal wall during a double game, but lost only in the tug of war.

In addition, scout Ritten Anjain was honored during the jamboree as the only scout to be given the “heroism” award. He was recognized with this award for successfully using the Heimlich Maneuver on a one year old baby that prevented the child from choking on a screw. From the trainings he received in the Boy Scouts, Anjain saved the baby’s life.

Viliane said that if it weren’t for Rongelap Atoll Local Government, and especially the parents, they wouldn’t have participated at Oahu.

“We want to thank the parents for all their support,” he said.