

Inalåhan Middle School Students Complete Guam Coastal Ambassador Training

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On March 23, 2026, 120 students from Inalåhan Middle School participated in the Guam Coastal Management Program's (GCMP) Coastal Ambassador Program. The training focused on the "ridge-to-reef" connection, demonstrating how upland wildfires directly impact the health of Guam's coral reefs.

Wildfire Prevention and Watershed Health

The students visited the Ugum, As Gadao, and Piti/Masso watersheds to study the environmental chain reaction caused by fire. Key activities included:

The Fire Triangle: Students identified how heat, fuel, and oxygen contribute to wildfires and practiced prevention by maintaining firebreaks and pruning trees at Cross-Island Road.

Reforestation: To combat soil erosion, participants planted native seedlings across the watersheds, learning how root systems stabilize the landscape.

Runoff Analysis: The group evaluated how fire-damaged land loses its ability to filter water, allowing sediment, nutrients, and pollutants to wash into rivers and coastal ecosystems.



Students engaged in a series of activities focused on forest restoration, watershed health, wildfire impacts, and coastal ecosystem protection. Activities took place at the Ugum Watershed, the As Gadao Watershed, the Piti/Masso Reservoir, and Fish Eye, where participants contributed directly to ongoing restoration efforts.

At each watershed site (As Gadao, Piti/Masso, and Ugum), students planted seedlings to support long-term ecosystem recovery and observed firsthand the purpose of reforestation. They examined how wildfires contribute to soil degradation, erosion, and landscape damage. Through guided discussions/activities, students explored how degraded soils affect freshwater availability, increase the likelihood of new flood zones, and ultimately influence the health of Guam's coastal environments.





At Cross-Island Road in Santa Rita, students participated in discussions about the fire triangle and engaged in hands-on activities such as maintaining firebreaks, pruning trees, and planting native species to reduce wildfire risk and promote forest resilience.



At Fish Eye Marine Park, students examined the symbiotic relationship between algae and coral. They discussed how sedimentation from upland watersheds reduces light availability, preventing algae from performing photosynthesis and ultimately harming coral reefs and the biodiversity they support. Students also explored the importance of our coastal shore's protection in terms of how it affects fisheries, shoreline stability, and the island's economic well-being. Their visit concluded with observations inside Fish Eye's underwater aquarium, where they observed a real marine ecosystem up close.



“ These training exercises aimed not only to educate participants in becoming Coastal Ambassadors but also to reach a demographic of students who may not normally participate and/or become educated in becoming coastal ambassadors. ” Joshua Reyes, Science Teacher, IMS



The Coastal Ambassador Program is an initiative of the Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP), Bureau of Statistics and Plans. All photos provided by: Joshua Reyes.

