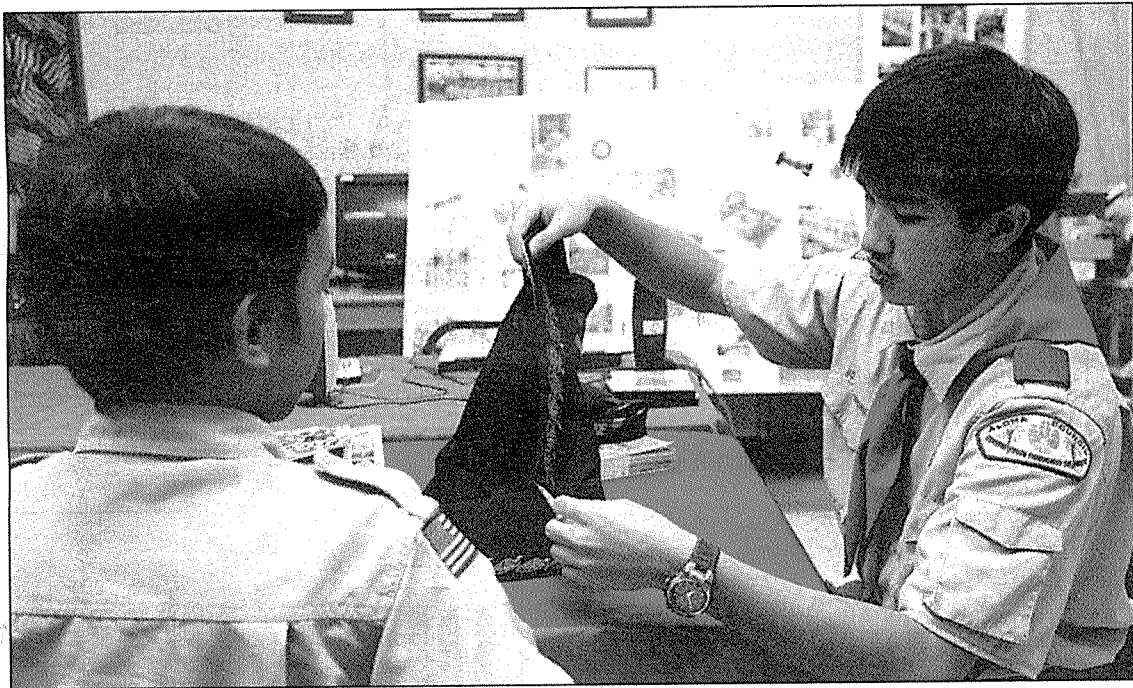


# Guam Boy Scouts mark milestone



Louis J. Paulino/For Pacific Daily News

**Scouts:** Thomas Borgonia, right, teaches Mark Davis how to properly tie a neckerchief yesterday. The Boy Scouts of America's Aloha Council, of which the Guam district office is a member, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

**By Amritha Alladi**

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Corey Granillo initially thought being a Boy Scout meant taking lots of fun camping trips.

But he soon found there was more to it than pitching tents and tying knots — and even pitching a tent sometimes requires a couple extra hands, he said. Granillo reached the organization's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

The Boy Scouts of America, a congressionally-appointed, national non-profit organization, teaches boys to be involved citizens, develops their character and builds their physical fitness, according to Mark Mendiola, district executive for the Chamorro district of the Boy Scouts of America's Aloha Council.

This year, the Aloha Council, of which the Guam district office is a member, celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The Guam district office will be

# Scouts: Program teaches teamwork, leadership

▲ Continued from Page 1

holding several special events this year as part of its commemorative projects, including a "Green Jamboree" March 12-13. Mendiola said the jamboree will require Scouts to research environmentally friendly technology and present it to the public through booths at the fair.

That's one thing the Boy Scouts are known for, Mendiola said — practical application learning.

On April 10, the Boy Scouts will host a "Scout-A-Rama" Scout show and competition. Mendiola said all units will compete in several tasks, including knot tying, survival and first aid.

"It's to showcase their abilities," he said.

For the remainder of the year, in partnership with the Boy Scouts of America, the Pacific Daily News will feature an archival photo of a former local Boy Scout every Sunday in the Lifestyle section of the paper.

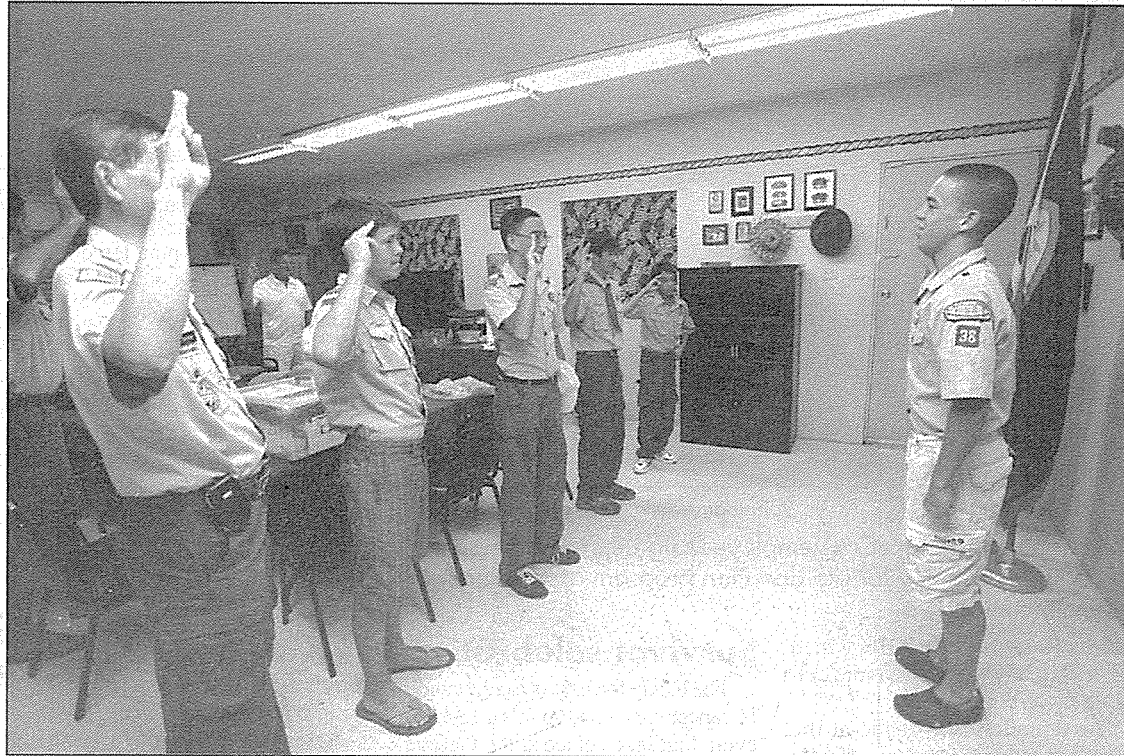
## Climbing the ranks

The primary way the organization develops leadership qualities in its members is by assigning tasks to individuals and holding them responsible. For example, on a camping trip, each member is assigned to bring something. Failure to do so means the entire group loses, Mendiola said. This can mean the difference between having water to drink while in the jungle — or not.

And the boys are the ones who hold the meetings and teach each other, Mendiola said. Counselors are only there to facilitate, he explained.

"If you give the boy a leadership role, he's harder on himself," Mendiola said. "No one likes to fail. It teaches them problem-solving skills."

The ultimate test of a Scout's abil-



Louis J. Paulino/For Pacific Daily News

**Scout-A-Rama:** Justin Brown, senior patrol leader, leads the scouts in the Pledge of Allegiance yesterday. The Guam district office will be holding several special events this year as part of its commemorative projects, including a "Green Jamboree" on March 12 and 13.

ity is demonstrated through the Eagle Scout project. The coveted Eagle rank is attained after the Scout has passed through all other ranks and has completed the basic tasks required of a Scout. He then has to devise a project by himself that gives back to the community, Mendiola said.

While he can solicit the help of fellow scouts, businesses and friends for supplies and help by way of labor. The planning of the project, raising of funds and execution of the project are carried out, for the most part, by the Scout, Mendiola explained. The project must be completed by the boy's 18th birthday.

For his Eagle project, Granillo decided to refurbish the parking lot at his church, the San Miguel Church in Talofoto. In two weeks, he solicited Home Depot, Ace Hardware and other stores for paint and supplies, and asked his fellow Scout members for help. They finished the project in one day, just in time for evening Mass, he recalls.

"As you go up in the ranks it gets tougher and tougher. Time after time, you know you're not the only one going up the ranks," Granillo said, adding the competition stays healthy. "You develop friendship with the Boy Scouts. We develop teamwork,

we work together."

According to Mendiola, once you're a Boy Scout, you're always a Boy Scout, even after you've joined the Eagle ranks.

Granillo's mother, Tricia Granillo, said she saw her son's transformation. Corey Granillo, who joined as a Cub Scout when he was 8 years old, would follow in the footsteps of his older cousins, she remembers. The Boy Scouts built her son's confidence. He soon became a leader rather than a follower, she said.

"He's becoming now a leader, taking the initiative to do things on his own," she said, citing his recent

## AT A GLANCE

### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

▲ The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The Boy Scouts provide a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and develops personal fitness.

Source: Boy Scouts of America Web site, [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)

### JOIN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

- ▲ Call the Guam office: 649-0639
- ▲ Find a unit closest to you.
- ▲ Age requirements: Cub packs: 7 to 11 years or first to fifth grades; Troops for Boys: 11 to 18 or sixth to 12th grades; Venture crews: Educational high-adventure, high-activity high school programs.
- ▲ Dues of \$15 for the whole year
- ▲ Year-round enrollment

### BENEFITS

- ▲ Increased college scholarship opportunities
- ▲ Access to the congressional floor
- ▲ Rank advancement, if you join the military.

Source: Mark Mendiola, district executive, Chamorro district of the Boy Scouts of America's Aloha Council

membership to AmeriCorps as something he wanted to do himself.

Corey Granillo has also started tutoring kids from his alma mater, Father Duenas Memorial School, she said.

"I'm very proud that my family is participating in the 100th anniversary. We're very privileged to have my son become an Eagle at this time," she added.