



Tommy Goes to School

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U.S. Virgin Islands Hotel & Tourism Association



Spotlight Tourism Position—Director of Fun

Many hotels have Kid’s Clubs, a program that allows children visiting the islands to enjoy special programs designed just for them. The Director of Fun (DOF), along with staff members, assemble entertainment not only for kids but for all travelers visiting the hotel. What experience do you need to become a DOF? No specific educational degree is required but a Bachelor’s degree is recommended as well as experience working with kids. Ideal candidates should also have experience supervising other employees and be trained in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) . Some of the fun activities include tie-dying, feeding iguanas, field trips, crab races and cookie decorating. “The best part of the job is seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces, said Toya Frazier, DOF at the Westin St. John. I also enjoy welcoming kids and families on return visits to the hotel and seeing how much everyone has grown.”

The Importance of Mangroves

Mangroves are tropical, salt-resistant trees that have adapted to living in areas often flooded by water. They are very important for many reasons. They serve as a protective areas and feeding grounds for wildlife such as herons, iguanas and humming birds. Mangroves also serve as a valuable nursery for many young reef fish that inhabit our precious coral reefs. They protect the coastline from wave erosion and reduce the amount of dirt by trapping it in their roots. The Virgin Islands is home to 3 species of mangroves--the red, black and white variety. Mangroves grow in protected bays which are ideal for marinas and boat facilities. Over the past 50 years, the Virgin Islands has lost 40 to 50 percent of our mangroves to these and other activities. Storms may also kill mangroves by stripping their leaves off and abrading the bark. Mangroves generally do not recover from major storm damage and die. Organizations such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife and companies like Coral World Marine Park are spearheading efforts to preserve and restore the mangroves in the Virgin Islands. With these efforts and the VI laws governing preservation it is the hope that mangrove areas will regenerate and continue to be an important part of the marine ecosystem.



Hi friends,

The new school year has started and I’m excited to bring you the latest *Tommy Goes to School* Newsletter. In this issue, we’ll highlight a tourism position, explore the importance of mangroves, meet the Tommy essay contest winner, learn about a traditional craft, and challenge you to figure out the crossword puzzle. I hope you enjoy this issue and share what you’ve learned with your friends. See you next time... Tommy Starfish

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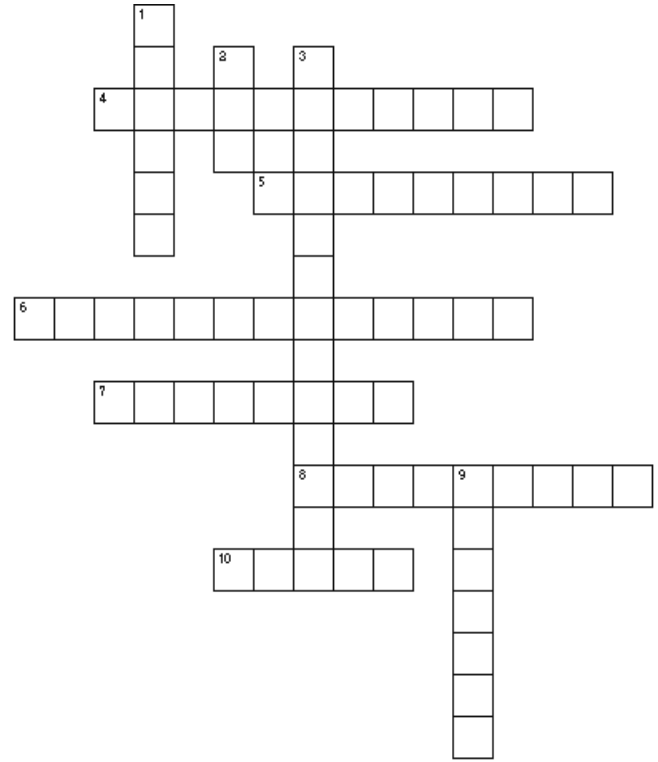
Tommy Newsletter Essay Contest

Tommy Starfish can help my community by helping tourism. He can organize groups of elementary, middle and high school students to hold regular clean-ups. The clean-ups would keep our islands clean. The tourists would appreciate our islands more if they were cleaner. Tommy could also have more in-service training for persons such as taxi drivers and store employees on being courteous and friendly to our visitors. Another area where Tommy can help our community is by having advertisements that promote all of the islands more. He could have commercials that talk about the history of all the islands as well as places where people should definitely visit when they come to the islands. Tommy Starfish can help our community by ensuring that we are all educated on the importance of tourism to our community.

Submitted by:

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Across

- 4 The smallest Virgin Island
- 5 Plant used to make brooms
- 6 Last name of Commissioner of Tourism
- 7 Home to juvenile fish
- 8 Name of Newsletter Sponsor
- 10 Green fruit with fleshy inside

Down

- 1 Winner of Tommy Essay Contest
- 2 Color of Fort Christian
- 3 Last name of Commissioner of Tourism
- 9 The business of attracting visitors to the islands

The Teyer Palm Broom

Ask you mother or grandmother what's the best broom for sweeping away the cobwebs or cleaning the floors and they'll most certainly say the old time Teyer Palm Broom. It is made by very few people nowadays but broom-makers like Justin Todman are keeping the craft alive. The Teyer Palm is a native tree and is the only palm that was not introduced to the islands by settlers or sea. The Palm usually grows to about 10-20 feet and bears white flowers which usually bloom in the spring followed by small dark berries. Some brooms are made with long handles to reach ceilings while the shorter models are used for sweeping floors.



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Together we are one

Being a member of the Students First Kids Club is fun! Learn the value of saving money and attend cool events where there will be special prizes, games, and more!

