

M O N I T O R I N G R E P O R T

WHAT IS HIDDEN BEHIND “RECREATION” IN A CHILDREN’S CAMP?

HOW RUSSIA MILITARIZES,
INDOCTRINATES AND CHANGES
THE IDENTITY OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN



What is hidden behind “recreation” in a children’s camp? How Russia militarises, indoctrinates and changes the identity of Ukrainian children.

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The Centre for Civic Education “Almenda” (CCE “Almenda”) is a non-governmental organisation registered in Yalta in 2011. Until 2014, the organisation’s priority area of activity was human rights education. In 2014, due to the occupation of Crimea, the organisation was forced to move to Kyiv. Currently, the organisation’s priority is to ensure the systematic collection of accurate, timely, verified data on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

In preparing its monitoring reports, the CCE “Almenda” is guided by the principles of objectivity, reliability and timeliness.

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INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, the Russian Federation has been creating an effective system of destroying Ukrainian identity of the residents of the occupied peninsula. This system particularly targets children and uses a variety of tools, including formal and non-formal education, recreation, cultural life, etc.¹ After the occupation of the AR of Crimea in 2014, it is possible to trace how the Russian side uses the system of Ukrainian children’s health facilities that remained on the temporarily occupied territory to improve health of children from the TOT of the AR of Crimea, the Russian Federation, as well as children from the occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Since the beginning of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, there have been numerous cases of illegal transfer of children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine (Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, the so-called DPR and LPR) to the territory of Crimea (including the transfer of children within the TOT of the AR of Crimea) under the pretext of improving their health and rehabilitation.

The total number of children illegally transferred to health facilities in the AR of Crimea is growing, and this “recreation” is also used to conduct patriotic and military activities in accordance with the main narratives of Russian ideology, introduce camp shifts with enhanced military training, hold military training camps, games and festivals aimed at integrating Ukrainian children into the educational and educating space of the Russian Federation. These facts indicate a systematic approach to measures aimed at forming a Russian identity among Ukrainian children, their militarisation and involvement in activities in support of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Such actions violate a number of provisions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Firstly, Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the forcible transfer of residents of temporarily occupied territories. Secondly, the use of recreation for the actual “re-education” of children violates Article 8 (the child’s right to preserve his or her identity), Article 19 (protection of the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse), Article 31 (the child’s right to rest and leisure) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which the Russian Federation is a party.

This monitoring report covers the activities of camps in temporarily occupied Crimea and the city of Sevastopol that hold military and patriotic events, re-educate children from the TOT of Ukraine, conduct military training, games and projects as part of the 2023 summer recreation campaign. The purpose of this report is to record and publicise the crimes of the Russian Federation.

1 The system of destruction of Ukrainian identity among the residents of the occupied peninsula is described in more detail in the 2022 report “Crimean Scenario” prepared by the CCE “Almenda”, which can be found at the link: <https://almenda.org/analitichnyy-zvit-universalnyy-soldat-2022-2023/>

Methodology

The report covers the period from 1 June to 31 August 2023 and is based on information collected by the CCE “Almenda” exclusively from open sources, in particular from:

- reports of the Russian state authorities and occupation administrations on children’s recreation, in particular from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;
- official statistics of the Russian Federation;
- information posted on the official websites and official pages in social media (including the social networking service VKontakte) of children’s camps and institutions that hold patriotic and military events;
- publications of the local media of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Methodological limitations

For the purposes of this report, Almenda’s documenters used only sources available to them. The collection and analysis of information lasted until 20 September 2023. Information and messages that could not be verified as of the date of publication of the report were not included in this monitoring review.

The use of data from the social networking service VKontakte is due to the fact that representatives of the occupation authorities have their official pages there, so it is in fact the only possible source of access to obtain the necessary information.

No information was collected and monitored about day camps operating at educational institutions.

The information on the activities of camps and events held exclusively on the territory of the temporarily occupied AR of Crimea was taken into account.

Abbreviations used in the report

TOT	temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine
Crimea	the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, including the city of Sevastopol, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation
RF	Russian Federation
so-called “special military operation”	a term used in Russia to describe a full-scale invasion of Ukraine
so-called “DPR”	the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic, i.e. the territory of the Donetsk region temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation
so-called “LPR”	the so-called Luhansk People’s Republic, i.e. the territory of the Luhansk region temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation
ANO	autonomous non-profit organisation

Summary

After occupying the territory of the AR of Crimea, the Russian Federation adopted the Law of 21.03.2014 No. 6-FKZ “On Admitting the Republic of Crimea to the Russian Federation and Forming of New Subjects within the Russian Federation – the Republic of Crimea and the City of Federal Importance Sevastopol”. Pursuant to Article 23 of the said Law, “the effect of legislative and other regulatory legal acts of the Russian Federation shall be extended to the territories of the Republic of Crimea and the city of federal importance Sevastopol”. Therefore, legal relations in the field of the recreation of children are subject to the legislative acts of the Russian Federation and are regulated, in particular, by the following laws:

- Federal Law of 29.12.2012 No. 273-FZ (as amended on 08.12.2020) “On Education in the Russian Federation”;
- Federal Law of 24.07.1998 No. 124-FZ (as amended on 27.12.2019) “On Basic Guarantees of the Rights of the Child in the Russian Federation”;
- Letter of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation of 01.04.2014 No. 09-613 “Recommendations on the exemplary content of educational programmes implemented in organisations providing recreation and health improvement of children”;
- Law of the Republic of Crimea of 02.06.2015 No. 107-ZRK/2015 “On Organisation and Provision of Recreation for Children and Their Health Improvement in the Republic of Crimea”.

In these normative documents, one of the main areas of educational activity is the formation of a sense of patriotism and civic consciousness among school children. Therefore, the concepts of “patriotism” and “civic consciousness” are manipulated in the development of education programmes, including for children’s camps, in order to militarise children, spread Russian propaganda and form a positive attitude towards the wars in which Russia is involved.

According to the Register of Children’s Recreation and Health Improvement Organisations operating in the Republic of Crimea, as of 16.08.2023, there were 382 organisations, including:

- 329 day camps (at schools and other educational institutions);
- 6 children’s centres (of various types and forms of ownership);
- 38 children’s camps (of various types and forms of ownership);
- 2 recreational boarding houses;
- 2 health centres;
- 2 recreation and health facilities;
- 1 institution providing training for the sports reserve;
- 1 sanatorium for children (and children with parents).²

At a conference call dedicated to the organisation and conduct of the 2023 children’s recreation campaign, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Tatyana Golikova noted that more than 5000 children from the occupied Donetsk and Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions would participate in multi-day themed routes related to Russian history and culture. Another 6000 children from these territories will have “recreation” in other regions, including on the coast.³

Statements by the the Commissioner for Children’s Rights in the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, Maria Lvova-Belova, confirm the information that children from the occupied Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions are being rehabilitated in the occupied Crimea. At the same time, Lvova-Belova noted that the so-called “special rehabilitation format with a rich programme of psychological assistance will be launched for the first time in 2023, and one of the “Day After Tomorrow” sessions for teenagers from the regions affected by hostilities will also take place in Crimea.⁴

When planning the summer “recreation” campaign in Crimea, a representative of the occupation authorities, namely the so-called Minister of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea, Valentyna Lavryk, said that 325 organisations (in 2022 - 304 children’s recreation organisations), including 46 country camps, plan to take children for so-called “rest and recreation”. It is planned to operate 281 day camps for 19.3 thousand children, which is 22 more than in 2022 (17 thousand children).⁵

According to a representative of the occupation authorities, namely the so-called Head of the Integrated Security Department of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea Larysa Ishchenko, as of 1 July 2023, 27000 children had “rest” in Crimean camps with round-the-clock and daytime accommodation. Of all 27000 children, about 10000 are

2 <https://monm.rk.gov.ru/ru/structure/53>

3 <http://government.ru/news/48459/>, archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/SS553>

4 <https://t.me/malvovabelova/1061>, archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/2enDu>

5 <https://rk.gov.ru/ru/article/show/18117>

Crimean children, and 16000 are children from different regions of the Russian Federation. The statement does not specify from which regions the children were brought. Given that the Russian Federation considers the occupied territories of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk and Donetsk regions to be regions of Russia, it is impossible to determine how many children were from the occupied territories of Ukraine and how many from the Russian Federation.⁶

As of the date of this report, no official statistics have been published on the number of children who were in recreational facilities during the summer recreation campaign. However, the Russian media, citing officials of the occupational Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea, note that 55400 children stayed in 30 countryside camps in Crimea during the summer holidays on preferential vouchers. In particular, from the occupied region of Zaporizhzhia there were 4358 children, from Kherson region- 727, Donetsk and Luhansk – 4000.⁷

By transferring children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, the Russian Federation is grossly violating international humanitarian law in terms of the prohibition on the transfer of children to other states. The prohibition applies, in particular, to transfers within the occupied territories (with the exception of evacuation, if there are legitimate grounds for it). Thus, this monitoring report documents Russia’s actions that violate the following international legal acts:

- Article 8 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (establishes the obligation of states to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name, and family ties, without unlawful interference);
- Article 78 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (establishes a direct prohibition on the transfer of children to a foreign country and specifies the only exceptional circumstance under which the transfer of children in the occupied territory may be permitted which compelling reasons of the health or medical treatment of the children. It is noted that such evacuation should be temporary);
- Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (stipulates that any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law);
- Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (states that the education of the child shall be directed to the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin);
- Articles 38, 39 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (regulate the protection of children in times of war);
- Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (establishes the right of the child to rest and leisure, the right to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to his or her age, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts).

6 https://vk.com/@crimea_air-s-nachala-2023-goda-v-detskih-lageryah-kryma-otdohnuli-27-ty;
<https://archive.ph/wip/OWhAA>

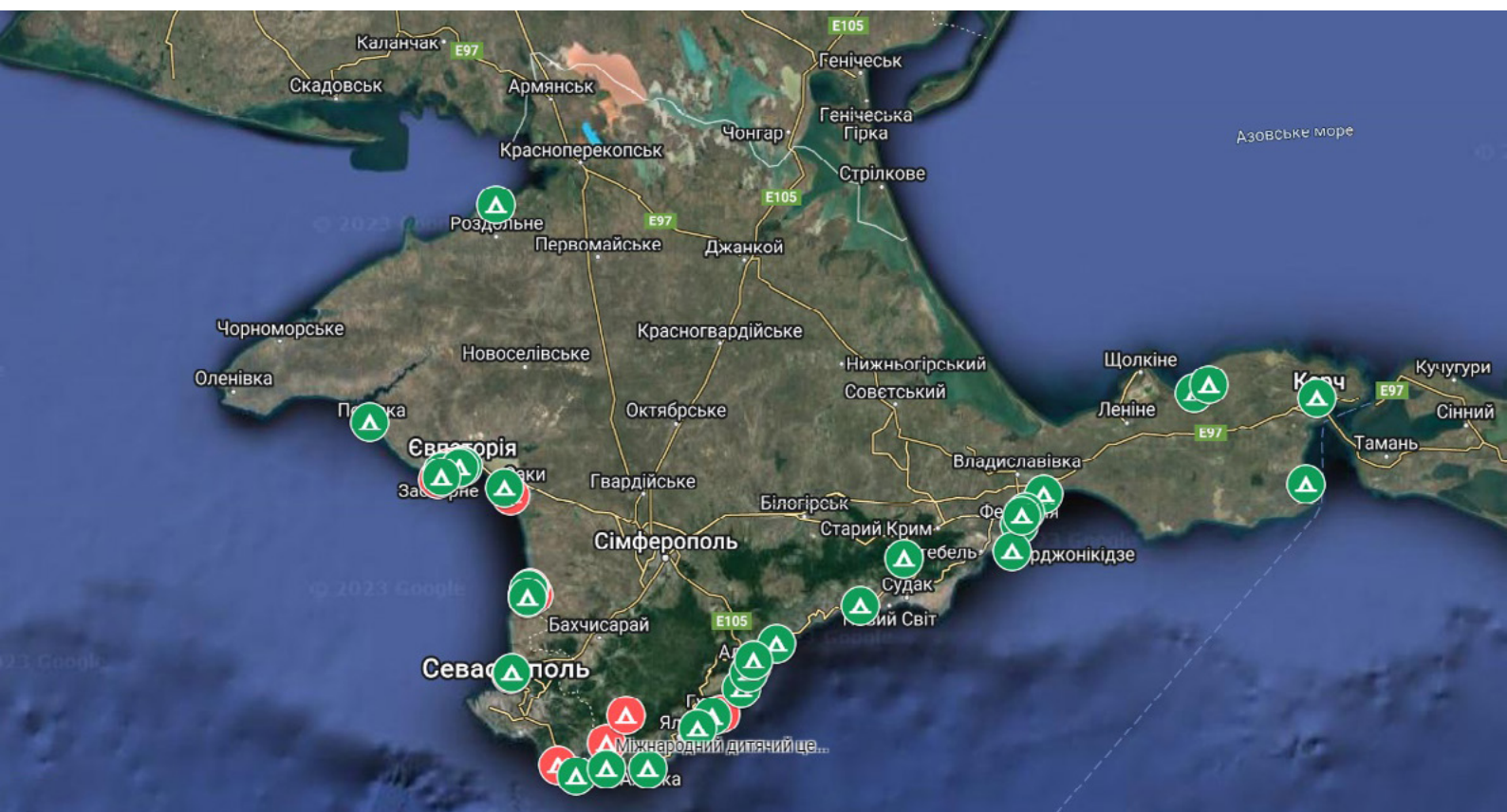
archive:

7 https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/6199421?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fdzen.ru%2Fnews%2Fsearch%3Ftext%3D; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/tY85b>

ORGANISATIONS OF SO-CALLED CHILDREN’S “RECREATION”

**operating in Crimea,
whose activities are de facto
aimed at indoctrinating and
militarising children**





During the monitoring period, 23 camps were identified, which can be divided into “those where military and patriotic events are held” and “those where re-education activities are held” (including those with the participation of children from the temporarily occupied territory of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as Crimea). We also identified 5 military and patriotic events. Below there is more information about them.

All the camps and events described in this monitoring report were held on the territory of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the location of which being marked on the map.

CAMPS WHERE MILITARY AND PATRIOTIC EVENTS ARE HELD

“PLANETA DETSTVA” (PLANET OF CHILDHOOD)⁸

Official name: State Autonomous Institution of Sevastopol “Regional Children’s Educational Centre “Planeta Detstva”.

Address: 10, Chelnokova St., Sevastopol.

Director: Sergey Gennadievich Gridnev.

Official website: https://planeta-detstva-sevastopol.ru/general_info/⁹

The educational centre “Planeta Detstva” includes several operating camps.

1. Children’s health camp “Gornyy” (Mountainous) [hereinafter referred to as Camp “Gornyy”].

Address: 2, Kolhozna St., Kolhozne village, Sevastopol.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 410. In total, 4 shifts took place in the summer of 2023, including patriotic ones.

2. Children’s health camp “Laspi” [hereinafter referred to as Camp “Laspi”].

Address: 21, Sevastopolskaya St., Balaklava district, Sevastopol, Southern Coast of Crimea.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 500. In total, 4 shifts took place in the summer of 2023, including specialised patriotic shifts.

In the summer of 2023, more than 250 children from the temporarily occupied territories of Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Donetsk, and Luhansk regions, as well as 2954 children from the city of Sevastopol (including 1560 children in the camp “Laspi” and 1394 children in the camp

⁸ Hereinafter, the Russian names of the camps are transliterated, and the English translation is given in brackets. The names of movements, events, programmes, slogans, etc. are translated.

⁹ <https://archive.ph/wip/zLbir>



“Gornyy”)^{10,11,12} stayed in these camps. The educational programme of the educational centre “Planeta Detstva” includes patriotic education. The children were involved in activities aimed at militarising and destroying Ukrainian identity.

The following events were held at the children’s health camp “Gornyy”.

- A specialised military-patriotic shift “Growing up as patriots”, during which children took part in the military-patriotic game “Russian Fleet - Vivat!”, the “Landing” relay race, visited an exhibition of military weapons, a performance by the Russian Guard brass band led by Russian military conductor Major Valentin Tayev, and “acquired the knowledge and skills necessary for a future defender of the Russian Federation”.^{13,14} As part of this military-patriotic shift, on 27 July, a quest was held in honour of the Day of the Russian Navy, aimed at glorifying and popularising the military profession.¹⁵
- In June, a day of the all-Russian public and state movement of children and youth “Movement of the First” was held [hereinafter referred to as “Movement of the First”], the theme of which was patriotism. Children were taught about the Russian Federation in the spirit of instilling the idea of perceiving Russia as a “native land”.¹⁶ The “Movement of the First” together with representatives of the military-patriotic centre held a patriotic lecture¹⁷ and a quest where children were taught how to handle weapons. Children assembled and disassembled weapons, and took pictures with weapons in their hands.¹⁸

10 <https://profsevas.ru/2023/03/29/севастопольская-трёхсторонняя-коми-3/>; archive: <https://archive.li/kxgdE>

11 https://sev.gov.ru/info/news/196115/?sphrase_id=3266913; archive: <https://archive.ph/EPJwX>

12 The number of children is taken from open sources, the actual number may differ.

13 https://vk.com/wall-202830610_3178; archive: <https://archive.ph/lfh1P>

14 https://vk.com/wall-202830610_3185; archive: <https://archive.li/b2QVL>

15 https://vk.com/wall-30716644_33683; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/I8H6W>

16 https://vk.com/wall-30716644_33507; archive: <https://archive.ph/BCWxU>

17 https://vk.com/wall-213630548_10672; archive: <https://archive.li/YfCPQ>

18 https://vk.com/wall-213630548_10912; archive: <https://archive.li/8PsIE>

- 420 children took part in the song contest “For the glory of the Fatherland”,¹⁹ during which they performed military and patriotic songs, including “You live, my Russia”,²⁰ the anthem of the All-Russian Children’s and Youth Military and Patriotic Public Movement “Youth Army” [Russian – “Yunarmiya”, hereinafter referred to as “Youth Army”], “Serve Russia”,²¹ “Struna” (dedicated to a Russian military officer with the call sign “Struna” [English – “String”]), and also held theatrical performances using military uniforms and weapons.²² The event was aimed at shaping children’s civic and patriotic stance towards the Russian Federation, and was intended to make them feel proud of the “feats of the older generation” (referring to the participation of Russians in past wars, including the so-called “Great Patriotic War”).
- Children were involved in writing letters to Russian servicemen participating in hostilities on the territory of Ukraine.^{23,24,25}

The following events were held at the children’s health camp “Laspi”.

- For the second year in a row, the camp has hosted more than 250 children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine,^{26,27} including 70 children from the TOT of Melitopol district, Zaporizhzhia region, throughout the 2nd shift lasting during 24.06.2023 – 14.07.2023;^{28,29} 50 children from the TOT of Starobilsk, Luhansk region, throughout the 3rd specialised shift “School of Future Commanders” during 17.07.2023 – 06.08.2023;³⁰ 152 children from the TOT of Melitopol district, Zaporizhzhya region, throughout the 4th specialised shift “Movement of the First” during 09.08.2023 – 29.08.2023.³¹
- The camp hosted a specialised shift “Fellowship of Eaglets of Russia ” from 31.05.2023 to 20.06.2023, the programme of which included, among other things, celebrations of the Russian Language Protection Day, Russia Day with the action “We are citizens of Russia!”, a demonstration of the video “Russia is the country of opportunities”, a quiz “Tour of Russia”, a game “Wide is the country my native land”, meetings with representatives of the Russian Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Management, the State

19 https://vk.com/wall-202830610_3186; archive: <https://archive.li/xm3ul>

20 https://vk.com/wall-213630548_11520; archive: <https://archive.li/dnKnZ#selection-1979.0-1979.49>

21 https://vk.com/wall-213630548_11527; archive: <https://archive.li/LX01B>

22 https://vk.com/wall-213630548_11554; archive: <https://archive.li/7yDDX>

23 https://vk.com/wall-213630548_12017; archive: <https://archive.li/1g760>

24 https://vk.com/wall-213630548_12008; archive: <https://archive.li/usz22>

25 https://vk.com/wall-213630548_12026; archive: <https://archive.li/jrAaM>

26 <https://crimea-news.com/other/2023/08/15/1157155.html>; archive: <https://archive.li/2a1CL>

27 <https://zp-news.ru/society/2023/07/22/174415.html>; archive: <https://archive.li/VCRUJ>

28 https://vk.com/wall-217630752_935; archive: <https://archive.li/IUvRx>

29 https://vk.com/wall-201792087_1617; archive: <https://archive.li/bTTFP>

30 <https://sevdobro.ru/школа-будущих-командиров-в-ласпи-н/>; archive: <https://archive.li/R3Rpl>

31 <https://ria82.ru/news/sevastopol/v-detskom-lagere-laspi-otkryli-letnyuyu-smenu-dvizheniya-pervyyh>; archive: <https://archive.li/lbK8m>



Road Safety Inspectorate, a weekly flag-raising ceremony and other activities aimed at militarising children and shaping their Russian identity.³²

- From 17.07.2023 to 06.08.2023, 600 children and teenagers were trained under the educational programme “School of Future Commanders” of the regional branch of the “Youth Army” educational centre in Sevastopol, funded by the so-called government of Sevastopol. The programme included a celebration of the Day of the Russian Navy and the laying of wreaths on the water in memory of the ships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet that were sunk during the so-called “special military operation”. During the event, 18 children were accepted into the ranks of the “Youth Army”, unfurled the flag as part of the project “Symbols of the State - Through the Ages”, which is being implemented with the support of the Presidential Grants Fund, and chanted the imperial slogan: “Russia is a maritime power. Our spirit is invincible!”.³³ These events were aimed at forming a positive attitude towards the Russian Navy among children and glorifying the participants of the so-called “special military operation”.
- Within the framework of the additional programme “School of Future Commanders”, militarisation activities were conducted for children, including a pre-conscription training programme that included the following activities: disassembling and assembling an

32 <https://planeta-detstva-sevastopol.ru/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/%D0%9B%D0%B0%D1%81%D0%BF%D0%B8.pdf>; archive: <https://archive.ph/wjp/BrFt6>

33 https://vk.com/wall-122681115_6087; archive: <https://archive.li/1zYVj>

assault rifle AK-47 and loading the magazine with training rounds, throwing training grenades, handling a military protective suit and gas mask; shooting an air rifle, drill and physical training; courses on the basics of survival in extreme conditions (“survival school”), medical assistance and rescue of victims in emergency situations, etc.^{34,35}

- Meetings were held between children and Russian military personnel involved in military operations on the territory of Ukraine.³⁶



“SOLNECHNAYA TAVRIKA” (SUNNY TAURICA)

Official name: State Unitary Enterprise of the Republic of Crimea “Solnechnaya Tavrika”

Address: 17-B Mate Zalki St., Simferopol, AR of Crimea.

Director: Lyudmila Alekseevna Yermakova.

Official website: <https://tavrika-crimea.ru/>

The State Unitary Enterprise “Solnechnaya Tavrika” includes several camps.

1. Health and Sports Complex “Delfin” (Dolphin).

Address: 34 Verkhne Mistechko and 9 Naberezhna Street, Pishchane village, Bakhchisaray district, Crimea.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 380. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

2. Sanatorium “Druzhba” (Friendship).

Address: 10, 12 Mayakovskoho St., Yevpatoriya, Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 1042. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

34 https://vk.com/wall-122681115_6044; archive: <https://archive.li/6782c>

35 https://vk.com/wall-122681115_6110; archive: <https://archive.li/ZgSuB>

36 https://vk.com/wall-30716644_33760; archive: <https://archive.li/GC2QT>

3. Recreational boarding house – children’s health camp “Luchisty” (Radiant).

Address: 31, Druzhby Alley, Yevpatoriya-13, AR of Crimea.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 687. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

During the summer recreation campaign of 2023, more than 10000 children were “recreated” in these camps, including about 1000 children from the TOT of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions.^{37,38,39} They were subjected to activities aimed at militarising and destroying Ukrainian identity.

In the health and sports complex “Delfin”:

- A quiz was held devoted to historical events and heroes of the Russian Federation (from the time of the so-called “Great Patriotic War”) as part of the action “Let us pay homage to the great years”, which is aimed to develop children’s patriotic feelings towards the Russian Federation and “Russian civic consciousness”.^{40,41}

In the sanatorium “Druzhba”:

- the children from the TOT of Mariupol, Donetsk region, were accommodated who were given a tour of Sevastopol, where they were told “interesting facts about the Great Patriotic War and how Sevastopol received the title of a hero city”, which indicates the romanticisation of the concept of war.⁴²

In the children’s health camp “Luchisty”:

- lectures were held as part of the military-patriotic action “Knowledge. Heroes” telling about significant events of particular importance for the history of the Russian Federation. Particular attention was paid to the history of the so-called “Great Patriotic War” and the romanticisation of the actions of its participants. The aim of the campaign was to combat the “falsification” of history and to form the patriotic consciousness of children.⁴³



37 <https://profsevas.ru/2023/03/29/севастопольская-трёхсторонняя-коми-3/>; archive: <https://archive.li/kxgdE>

38 https://vk.com/wall-76911359_355; archive: <https://archive.li/a2wOH>

39 The number of children is taken from open sources, the actual number may differ.

40 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_22967; archive: <https://archive.li/uuOob>

41 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_23082; archive: <https://archive.li/G2vZB>

42 https://vk.com/wall-213760795_4544; archive: <https://archive.li/6tv4s>

43 <https://kianews24.ru/news/v-detskikh-lageryakh-krima-proshla-akciya/>; archive: <https://archive.li/8Acj5>

- the youth all-Russian public organisation “Russian Student Detachments”, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, held events for children of different grades as part of the All-Russian patriotic action “Let us pay homage to the great years”. As the organisers of the event noted, this event allowed the participating children to “fully experience the spirit of remembrance and pride for Russia”.^{44,45,46,47}

“ARTEK”

Official name: Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution “International Children’s Centre “Artek”

Address: 41, Leningradsкая St., Yalta, Gurzuf village, AR of Crimea.

Director: Konstantin Albertovich Fedorenko.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is more than 3000 in summer and more than 1500 in winter. During the calendar summer of 2023, the camp held 4 shifts, including specialised and patriotic ones.

Official website: <https://artek.org>

During the summer of 2023, 981 children from the TOT of Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine were “recreated” in the camp, including 285 children from the TOT of Zaporizhzhia region.^{48,49} They were subjected to activities aimed at militarising and destroying Ukrainian identity.

- The camp pays considerable attention to “patriotic” education, which is reflected in the programmes and activities. The children were involved in actions to support members of the Russian military taking part in hostilities on the territory of Ukraine, wrote letters to the area of the so-called “special military operation” and met with the military. In particular, a meeting was held with a combatant who is fighting on the territory of Ukraine. After the meeting, the children said that the guest was an example of courage and patriotism for them. In particular, a girl from the city of Bakhchisarai (the TOT of Crimea) said:

“Our guest is a hero for me. He told me a lot of interesting things about himself, about how he became a soldier. Such meetings help to instil in children a love for the motherland [meaning the Russian Federation], we have to continue the work of adults and defend our country [the Russian Federation in this context]”.

44 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_22712; archive: <https://archive.li/jOEBe>

45 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_22968; archive: <https://archive.li/u6gwT>

46 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_22928; archive: <https://archive.li/oMLwx>

47 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_23084; archive: <https://archive.li/uo9tS>

48 https://artek.org/press-centr/news/artek-podpisal-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-s-zaporozhskoy-i-hersonskoy-oblastyami?fbclid=IwAR2LotStyzNcwsZGuENU2dQ9o-jRnXZffI5if9vhDv-_i8WvVLyf7HMCUg0; archive: <https://archive.li/lsHz3>

49 The number of children is taken from open sources, the actual number may differ.



A girl from the town of Borzya, Trans-Baikal Territory (RF), said:

“In the future, I want to acquire a military profession, so it was interesting to find out which military educational institutions girls can enter. It was also very important to learn more about the special military operation. The meeting left a lot of positive emotions”.⁵⁰

- A meeting was held with members of the so-called “special military operation”. It was organised with the assistance of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. The meeting was aimed at glorifying Russian military personnel and justifying Russian aggression against Ukraine. During the meeting, the members of the military intelligence organisation told the children about their lives, their motivation to join the military and their participation in hostilities in Ukraine. The participants shared stories from their service with the children, told them about their current activities and the “heroism of the Russian military”. They discussed what defence of the homeland [in the context of the Russian Federation] and patriotism mean to them, and the military showed the children weapons and photographs from the war zone in Ukraine. Such meetings have a significant psychological and ideological impact on children, as evidenced by the impressions they share after the meeting. In particular, a girl from the town of Salekhard, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (RF), said:

“I really enjoyed the meeting, it was an important event for me. I am currently choosing a profession and after talking to the military, I wanted to become a military medic. I want to help my homeland. Being a Russian patriot is very important. Thank you for organising the meeting”.

A girl from the town of Ryazan, Russia, said:

⁵⁰ <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/uchastnik-svo-rasskazal-o-professii-voennogo-artekovcam/>;
<https://archive.li/2KUs8>

archive:

*“It was a memorable meeting. The guests told me about the special military operation, which is very valuable and important information for me. They are defending our country [meaning the Russian Federation], our traditions. It is important to respect and be grateful to all the defenders of the Motherland [the Russian Federation in this context]”.*⁵¹

- The Day of the Border Guard Service of the Federal Security Service of Russia was celebrated, and a sports and patriotic relay race was organised for children, where they performed sports tasks, demonstrated their skills in assembling and disassembling assault rifles and “trained to hit the target” (probably referring to shooting).⁵²
- Children and counsellors of “Artek” took part in the All-Russian military-patriotic educational campaign “Knowledge. Heroes”, aimed at patriotic education of the younger generation, romanticising the period of the Great Patriotic War and associating those events with the armed conflict in Ukraine, as well as the history of Russian regions and their role in the country’s development.⁵³
- A military-patriotic game “Zarnitsa 2.0” (Summer Lightning) was organised and conducted by the “Movement of the First” with the support of the Russian Society “Knowledge”. The children competed in first aid, orienteering, radio work, mountaineering training, and tried their hand at laser tag. The Artek children noted that the military-patriotic game helped them acquire new skills in these areas.⁵⁴
- On 2 August, a roundtable discussion was held by the “Club of Friends of Russia”, dedicated to the Day of Russia, to discuss the achievements of Russian diplomacy, its history and present. Children from different regions, including those from the TOT of Donetsk region, who turned 14 years old, were solemnly issued passports of citizens of the Russian Federation in the camp.^{55,56} This is a manifestation of forced passportisation, which is a gross violation of international law. According to Article 45 of the Convention on the Laws and Customs of War on Land, it is prohibited to force residents of the occupied territories to swear allegiance to the enemy state, and after receiving a Russian passport, the TOT residents can be drafted into the Russian Armed Forces and involved in a war against their own state, which is a war crime.⁵⁷ In addition, in the context of children’s rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, forced passportisation is a violation of the right to preserve one’s identity, which includes

51 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/pri-sodyaystvii-sk-rf-s-artekovcami-vstretilis-uchastniki-svo/>; archive: <https://archive.li/F1rk5>

52 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/v-arteke-proshel-den-yunyh-druzyay-pogranichnikov/>; archive: <https://archive.li/tqTTb>

53 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/22-iyunya-den-pamyati-i-skorbi-artekovcy-prinyali-uchastie-vo-vserossiyskoy-akcii/>; archive: <https://archive.li/Nycal>

54 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/artekovcy-uchastvuyut-v-voenno-patrioticheskoy-igre-zarnica-20/>; archive: <https://archive.li/VALbU>

55 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/artek-vstrechaet-detyay-iz-bolee-50-stran-vpervye-s-2020-goda/>; archive: <https://archive.li/auKpY>

56 https://vk.com/video-9400288_456247847; archive: <https://archive.ph/wjp/zmnxcx>

57 https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_222#Text

nationality (Article 8), is an unlawful interference with private and personal life (Article 16) and a breach of the obligation to take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection of children in armed conflict (Article 38).⁵⁸

- With the participation of the curator of the regional teams of the “Big Change”, a member of the so-called “special military operation”, Nikita Kudinov, children laid flowers at the monument to the “heroes-defenders of Artek”. As part of the event, children were told about the “feats of their peers during the Great Patriotic War”, which indicates the glorification of child war veterans and the indirect inspiring to follow their example.⁵⁹
- A lecture was held on the topic of “Sevastopol’s landmarks as symbols of Russia”. The children were addressed by Vladimir Kovalenko, Head of the Sevastopol Regional Branch of the Military Education and Training Centre “Youth Army”. The event ended with the performance of the Russian national anthem. Children from 22 countries unfurled the flag of the project “Symbols of the State - Through the Ages” and chanted: “Russia is a maritime power! Our spirit is invincible!” in praise of the Russian Federation.⁶⁰
- During the 9th shift called “Movement up”, the Federal Tax Service, together with the Artek International Children’s Centre, implemented the general development programme “We are the state” for children aged 10-16 to develop strategic thinking and decision-making skills, social responsibility, and to form an understanding of the mechanism of the state system and the social importance of taxation. According to the organisers and participants, these skills and knowledge are an important part of patriotic education and the development of Russian citizenship, and form the future talent pool for the civil service.⁶¹
- As part of the historical and patriotic festival “Russia will not forget”, dedicated to preserving “historical memory and spreading true facts” in Russian history, a tour of the festival exhibition was held at “Artek”.⁶²
- On 18-21 July, “Artek” hosted the finals of the All-Russian contest “Big Change” for students in grades 5-7. A total of 72158 residents of the TOT of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions joined the fourth season of the contest, including 131 participants in the finals. 126 children from the TOT of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions became the winners of the competitive selection of the thematic shift “Planet of Big Changes”.⁶³

58 https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_021#Text

59 https://vk.com/wall-193258751_760705; archive: <https://archive.li/D1y2g>

60 https://vk.com/sev_yunarmiya?w=wall-122681115_6042; archive: <https://archive.li/7oeOG>

61 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/artekovcy-izuchayut-nalogovuyu-sistemu-so-specialistami-fns/>; archive: <https://archive.li/obtOL>

62 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/rossiya-ne-zabudet-artekovcy-posetili-vystavku-ot-prokuratury-rf/>; archive: <https://archive.li/O28qM>

63 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/shkolniki-iz-novyh-regionov-rossii-stali-uchastnikami-finala-bolshoy-peremeny-v-arteke/>; archive: <https://archive.li/PUTNm>

- Children from TOT of Zaporizhzhia region take part in the international gathering “Planet of Big Changes” in the children’s camp “Lesnoy” of the Artek International Children’s Centre as part of the All-Russian contest “Big Change”.⁶⁴
- The International Children’s Centre “Artek” became a participant in the Youth Sea Campaign “Sails of Memory of the Black Sea”, whose principle partner is the Russian Black Sea Fleet. The main motto and slogan of the project: “Russia is a maritime power! Our spirit is invincible!” The culmination of the third stage of the Sea Race was a ceremony of laying wreaths and flowers on the water and a minute of silence in memory of the ships and vessels of the Black Sea Fleet that were sunk during the so-called “special military operation”.⁶⁵
- As part of the supplementary programme “Young Investigator” by Artek’s partner, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, a propaganda exhibition “Nazism: Unlearned Lessons” was organised, dedicated to the “origins and development of the nationalist movement in Ukraine”, prepared by employees of the Crimean Law Institute (branch) of the University of the Prosecutor’s Office of the Russian Federation within the framework of the Federal Project “Without a statute of limitations”.^{66,67}
- Activities of the specialised unit “Alpha”: children from this unit, together with counsellors and an experienced instructor, learn the basics of military, drill and mining training, including shooting at a professional range and actively studying weapons. In addition, the specialised unit’s educational programme provides knowledge about the organisation of the Russian Armed Forces and the distribution of responsibilities and positions within their structure.⁶⁸



64 <https://t.me/YugMolodoj/6963>; archive: <https://archive.li/U7MQP>

65 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/sostoyalsya-tretyi-etap-ezhegodnogo-molodezhnogo-morskogo-pohoda-parusa-pamyati-chernogo-morya/>; archive: <https://archive.li/4S4k0>

66 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/yunye-sledovateli-provodyat-smenu-v-arteke/>; archive: <https://archive.li/MtLGV>

67 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/uchastniki-programmy-yunyy-sledovatel-izuchili-vozmozhnosti-kriminalisticheskoy-tehniki/>; archive: <https://archive.li/FXUoT>

68 <https://artek.org/zhizn-arteka/profilnyy-otryad-alfa/>; archive: <https://archive.li/kdxjo>



“ALYE PARUSA” (SCARLET SAILS)

Official name: Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution “All-Russian Children’s Centre “Alye Parusa”

Address: 23/26 Lenina Ave., Yevpatoriya, AR of Crimea

Director: Elena Vasilievna Sayenko.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is about 200. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <https://ap-evp.ru/>

- During the summer “recreation” campaign of 2023, at least 100 children from the TOT of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions,⁶⁹ including children under regional quotas, attended the camp.⁷⁰ During each shift, there were specialised units, children’s organising committees, that promoted the “Movement of the First”. In particular, these committees organised the following military and patriotic events.

69 The number of children is taken from open sources, the actual number may differ.

70 <https://ap-evp.ru/regionalnaya-qvota>; archive: <https://archive.li/1AijA>

- Thematic days of the “Movement of the First”, where the Russian flag was raised, the mission and values of the Movement were introduced, and a project session “Advancement” [Russian – “PROdvizhenie”] was held.⁷¹
- Celebration of Russia Day with events aimed at destroying children’s Ukrainian identity and trying to make them more pro-Russian in their personal and political views. A patriotic event was held called “We are Russians! We are connected by one thread; a design project “Russia is a generous soul!” during which the authors prepared envelopes with Russian symbols. An information gallery “Symbols of Pride, Honour and Glory” was also open, and children took part in a video flash mob and virtually “carried” the Russian flag through their cities. As part of the “Conversation about the important issues”, a lecture on the “Brotherhood of Slavic Peoples” was held. Summing up, the organisers noted: “For each of us, Russia is our homeland, our heritage, our wealth. Our pride!”⁷²
- A specialised shift “We are Russia” was held for 83 children from the TOT of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. The programme included activities aimed at promoting Russian culture and destroying children’s Ukrainian identity, including national cuisine days, games, customs and rituals of the peoples of Russia, exhibitions of folk art, theatrical performances based on folklore, and career guidance interactives. In cooperation with the thematic partner of the shift, the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Russian Federation, an additional programme called “Young Lawyer” was implemented, which is designed to familiarise children with the constitutional rights of a person and a citizen in the Russian Federation, as well as the structure and functions of human rights, law enforcement and judicial bodies in the Russian Federation. Children also played a legal game - the International Military Tribunal “Nuremberg Trials”.⁷³ The distorted interpretation of the trial of Nazi criminals after World War II is actively used by Russian propaganda not only to absolve the USSR of responsibility for the outbreak of this war, but also to present the current war against Ukraine as a continuation of the “heroic struggle against Nazism” (referring to the imaginary “Ukrainian neo-Nazism”). For example, Russian historian Zvyagintsev told children in last year’s “Conversations about the important issues” that Russia would arrange a “New Nuremberg” for “Ukrainian Nazis”, and watching this video⁷⁴ was mandatory for all schoolchildren. Trial simulations in children’s camps have been held since 2017⁷⁵ to teach young people how to defend the Russian version of the ‘historical truth’, including through military means.
- The programme also included a workshop on making dugout candles, where children were taught about the usefulness of these candles at the front and how they are used by the Russian military. The finished candles were handed over to the front line to the soldiers participating in the so-called “special military operation” in Ukraine.⁷⁶

71 <https://ap-evp.ru/tpost/fm7g3r73j1-v-alih-parusah-den-pervih>; archive: <https://archive.li/wo8zu>

72 <https://ap-evp.ru/tpost/m25zlnvc1-den-rossii>; archive: <https://archive.li/aWscU>

73 <https://ap-evp.ru/tpost/9lr2p756b1-novaya-smena-v-alih-parusah>; archive: <https://archive.ph/OLscN>

74 <https://razgovor.edsoo.ru/topic/48/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/XHppA>

75 <https://media.artek.org/media/uploads/gazeta/2017/11-2017.pdf>; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/NxKTU>

76 <https://ap-evp.ru/tpost/ick967o2s1-obuchayuschiesya-alih-parusov-posetili-m>; archive: <https://archive.ph/OsWJx>



- As part of the project implemented by the Youth All-Russian Public Organisation “Russian Student Detachments”, the camp hosted an event called “Let us pay homage to the great years”, dedicated to the victory of Soviet troops in the Battle of Stalingrad. The camp “is proud of the history of the Russian Federation, so every shift patriotic events are organised to foster respect and appreciation for the heroes of the Great Patriotic War”.⁷⁷
- The “Russian Student Detachments”, a youth all-Russian public organisation, together with the Russian Ministry of Education, held a quiz as part of the “Let us pay homage to the great years” campaign. Children were taught about the history of Russia so that they could “admire its heroic past”. The organisers of the campaign said: “Understanding history is an important step towards the formation of patriotic values and a responsible attitude towards one’s country.”⁷⁸ The aim of the action is to impose on children the idea of glorifying the Russian Federation and glorifying the actions of the wartime period of the so-called “Great Patriotic War”. The authors of the action state: “This action is a true embodiment of patriotic spirit and heroism among our youth. We have come together to preserve and develop our love and respect for the heroic past of our homeland, Russia!”⁷⁹ The event also included a quiz game “The Great Year. Stalingrad”.⁸⁰
- Participants of the “Inheritors of tradition” shift took part in the All-Russian competition “I draw my native flag” for the largest flag drawn on the asphalt with chalk. “The children drew not just a picture, but the State Flag of the Russian Federation, a symbol of the state that unites citizens and links the past, present and future of the country together”.⁸¹

77 <https://ap-evp.ru/tpost/z1ucd1mg61-v-alih-parusah-proshla-intellektualnaya>; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/vWeFd>

78 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_22991; archive: <https://archive.li/H5a0i>

79 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_22929; archive: <https://archive.li/tRAMn>

80 https://vk.com/wall-213604330_2485; archive: <https://archive.li/CYuSr>

81 https://vk.com/wall-213604330_2448; archive: <https://archive.li/bNNn2>

“EVOLYUCIYA” (EVOLUTION)

Official name: Limited Liability Company “National Centre for Paralympic and Deaflympic Training and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, Children’s Health Camp “Zvezdnyy”, “Evolution”.

Address: 1, Druzhby Alley, Yevpatoriya, Zaozerne village, AR of Crimea.

Director: Sergey Pavlovich Nasadyuk.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 760. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts and a two-day forum “Movement of the First” were held.

Official website: <https://evolutionsport.ru/children-camp/summer-camp.html>

Throughout the summer of 2023, children from the TOT of Zaporizhzhia region were brought to the camp by the occupation administration of Zaporizhzhia region with the support of the pro-government political party “United Russia” and funding from the budget of the Tver region of the Russian Federation.^{82,83,84,85,86}

- Lectures were held in the camp as part of the military-patriotic action “Knowledge. Heroes” aimed at fostering patriotic consciousness among children about the Russian Federation.⁸⁷
- A quiz was held as part of the “Let us pay homage to the great years” campaign, which aimed to foster “pride and love for the Russian Federation” in children. The organisers note that “active participation of children in such events helps them to better understand and appreciate the history of Russia, as well as fosters patriotic values and a sense of pride in the Russian Federation”.⁸⁸



82 https://vk.com/@rso_crimea-nashe-trudovoe-let-den-40-2; archive: <https://archive.li/vQx05>

83 https://vk.com/@rso_crimea-nashe-trudovoe-let-den-29-2; archive: <https://archive.li/6br8D>

84 <https://berdyansk-news.ru/society/2023/08/09/20813.html>; archive: <https://archive.li/GE9RQ>

85 https://t.me/o_brd/5112; archive: <https://archive.li/kM16n>

86 https://t.me/glava_brd/1826; archive: <https://archive.li/LTSQy>

87 <https://kianews24.ru/news/v-detskikh-lageryakh-krima-proshla-akciya/>; archive: <https://archive.li/8Acj5>

88 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_22716; archive: <https://archive.li/bL5z2>



“CHILDREN’S HEALTH CAMP NAMED AFTER GAGARIN”

Official name: Municipal Unitary Enterprise “Yevpatoriya-Krym-Kurort” of the city district of Yevpatoriya of the Republic of Crimea “Children’s Health Camp named after Gagarin”.

Address: 10 Polupanova St., Yevpatoriya, AR of Crimea

Director: Lyuta Marina Ivanovna (Maryna Liuta).

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 760. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held in the camp.

Official website: <https://c-camp.ru/>

The working programme of the camp, posted on the official website, includes, in particular, the block “I love my homeland”, which aims to “form children’s sense of patriotism and readiness to defend the interests of the Fatherland [in the context, the Russian Federation], their awareness of their civic identity through a sense of pride in their homeland and responsibility for the future of Russia, knowledge of history, inadmissibility of falsification of historical events and distortion of historical truth, through the development of programmes for the education of children, including military-patriotic education, the development of respect for such symbols of the state as the coat of arms, flag, anthem of the Russian Federation, and historical symbols and monuments of the Fatherland in the younger generation”.⁸⁹

89 <https://c-camp.ru/docs>; archive: <https://archive.ph/6rhSR>

During the summer “recreation” campaign of 2023, about 250 children from the TOT of Zaporizhzhia region, including 25 children of employees of Melitopol Makarenko State University (hereinafter referred to as Makarenko MSU), visited the camp.⁹⁰ Along with the children’s recreation, students from universities located in the TOT of Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions, namely: Makarenko MSU and Azov Pedagogical State University, worked as counsellors and organised events within the framework of the “Movement of the First” project.⁹¹ During each shift, specialised groups, children’s organising committees, worked to promote the “The Movement of the First” project among the children who were on holiday in the centre.⁹²

The following military-patriotic events were held with the participation of these committees:

- a collective creative event “Country with a huge heart”, which was intended to present and promote the ideas and values of the “Movement of the First”;⁹³
- a quest aimed at familiarising children with the areas of activity of the “Movement of the First”;⁹⁴
- Marathon “Movement of the First” (3-day educational module on the topic of the shift);⁹⁵
- ceremonial raising of the Russian flag on the following Russian national holidays (in accordance with the guidelines): Russian Language Day (06.06), Russia Day (16.06), National Flag Day (22.08).⁹⁶

“DRUZHBA” (FRIENDSHIP)

Official name: Camp “Druzhba” is held at the recreation centre “Gorizont” (Horizon) of Sevastopol State University.

Address: village of Uchkuivka, Sevastopol.

Director: Lyudmyla Alekseevna Starodubtseva.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 200. The 6th shift with the participation of children from TOT of Zaporizhzhia region in the summer of 2023 has been identified.

Official website: <https://www.sevsu.ru/infrastruktura/sol-horizont>

90 https://t.me/mgu_mlt/7964; archive: <https://archive.ph/eFv51>

91 <https://t.me/YugMolodoj/6945>; apxiv: <https://archive.ph/bxw3W>

92 <https://c-camp.ru/docs>; archive: <https://archive.ph/6rhSR>

93 https://vk.com/wall-160841160_10920; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/bqqd8>

94 https://vk.com/wall-160841160_11801; archive: <https://archive.ph/EHAC6>

95 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZoZHI8NX1M7J9FBZuoEdkOQFI-62oDq2/view>

96 <https://c-camp.ru/docs>; archive: <https://archive.ph/6rhSR>

In 2023, about 100 children arrived for the 6th shift of the camp, including those from the TOT of Melitopol district, Zaporizhzhia region. They took part in activities aimed at militarising and destroying Ukrainian identity:

- thematic days dedicated to different peoples and cultures of the Russian population under the slogan “Many peoples – one country. Our Motherland is Russia”;
- the event “Army Shop”, which included assembling and disassembling an assault rifle.⁹⁷

“PARUS” (SAIL)

Official name: Limited Liability Company “Krym-Invest-Tour”, Children’s Health Camp “Parus”.

Address: 11-A and 11-B Druzhby Alley, Yevpatoriya, Zaozerne village, Ar of Crimea.

Director: Konstantin Nikolayevich Kirilyuk.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is approximately 250. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <https://paruscrimea.ru>

In the summer of 2023, children from Kherson region, the city of Kherson and town of Skadovsk,^{98,99} 239 children from the TOT of Zaporizhzhia region,¹⁰⁰ and 258 children from the TOT of the town of Sorokyne, Luhansk region,¹⁰¹ visited the camp. Vouchers to the camp were funded by the budget of the Russian Federation, namely the patron regions: Kuban, Adygea, Voronezh, Kaliningrad and Pskov regions.¹⁰²

In July of this year, on the basis of this camp, the military-patriotic movement “Black Sea Cossack Troop”, which is part of the “All-Russian Cossack Society”, held events of military influence and distortion of historical and ethnic identity, namely: an exhibition of World War II weapons and traditional Cossack weapons, events on tactical medicine and “ready for work and defence” movement, etc.¹⁰³

97 <https://sevastopol-news.com/other/2023/06/26/281400.html>; archive: <https://archive.ph/AxH21>

98 https://vk.com/wall-211012155_3819; archive: <https://archive.li/Fcqx5>

99 https://vk.com/wall-211012155_3839; archive: <https://archive.li/96AW6>

100 https://vk.com/wall-217630752_1149; archive: <https://archive.ph/UBvgM>

101 <https://krasnodon-adm.ru/news/64a582ea2ce44b04155ff35f>; archive: <https://archive.li/wuTaQ>

102 https://t.me/Genichesk_ru/6253; archive: <https://archive.li/WHvxo>

103 https://vk.com/wall-211012155_3998; archive: <https://archive.ph/NfDf7>



“SOKOL” (FALCON)

Official name: State Budgetary Educational Institution of Additional Education of the Republic of Crimea “Children’s Health Centre “Sokol”.

Address: 40 Lenina St., Sokolinoe village, Bakhchisaray district, AR of Crimea.

Director: Igor Aleksandrovych Sereda.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 170. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <https://sokol.com.ru>

On 5 August 2023, a competition and game programme “I am a patriot” was held on the basis of the said institution within the framework of the federal project “Patriotic education of citizens of the Russian Federation, which aims to ensure the functioning of the system of patriotic education of Russian citizens.¹⁰⁴ According to available information, the event was attended by children from the TOT of Luhansk region.¹⁰⁵

104 https://vk.com/wall-217364787_1059; archive: <https://archive.ph/o6Wtj>

105 https://vk.com/wall-217364787_1077; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/Kw47r>

“CHAYKA” (SEAGULL)

Official name: Joint Stock Company “International Children’s Medical Centre “Chayka”.

Address: 93, Druzhby Alley, Zaozerne village, Yevpatoriya, AR of Crimea.

Director: Kirill Yurievich Morozov

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is up to 1200. There were 4 shifts in the summer of 2023.

Official website: <https://www.chayka.camp>

There is information about the military-sports and heroic-patriotic orientation of the institution. It is also known about the military sports programmes organised by the Kaskad club (from the Russian city of St. Petersburg) in 2022.¹⁰⁶ The club’s activities in the summer of 2023 are confirmed by parents’ feedback.¹⁰⁷

“ALYE PARUSA” (SCARLET SAILS)

Official name: State Budgetary Institution of Additional Education of the Republic of Crimea “Children’s Health Centre “Alye Parusa”

Address: 23 Druzhby Alley, Zaozerne village, Yevpatoriya, AR of Crimea.

Director: Vladimir Gennadievich Shchekoldin.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 720. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <http://alieparusa.com.ru/>

In the summer of 2023, at least 290 children from the TOT of Luhansk and Donetsk regions, as well as Crimea, were “recreated” at the health centre.¹⁰⁸ The centre’s charter defines the implementation of additional educational programmes, including military-patriotic ones, among its goals and objectives.¹⁰⁹ There is also a training shooting range, according to the statute, the purpose of which is to prepare children for military service and to raise them “in the spirit of undivided devotion to their homeland”.¹¹⁰ During the summer of 2023, events and activities took place that had signs of militarisation and indoctrination.

106 <https://clubcascad.ru/letnjaja-smena-krym-pod-parusom-mechty/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/EbySU>

107 <https://incamp.ru/camps/kryim-mdmts-chayka-12250/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/Mj40N>

108 https://m.vk.com/wall-220761950_396; archive: <https://archive.li/oq9wR>

109 <https://alieparusa.com.ru/pdf/ustav.pdf>; archive: <https://archive.li/vQyig>

110 <https://alieparusa.com.ru/pdf/polog7.pdf>; archive: <https://archive.li/6MUyw>



- During the period of 17.07-06.08.2023, a specialised “Cossack shift”, “school of young atamans”, was organised for 290 children from the TOT of Crimea by the so-called Ministry of Education of the Republic of Crimea in cooperation with the “Black Sea Cossack Army” with the support of the so-called Office of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea. During the specialised Cossack shift, children were taught bullet shooting, tactical medicine, flanking and sabre skills. The classes were conducted by “military ataman” Anton Sirotkin, who, for six months, together with his “Cossacks”, had been performing combat missions in the so-called “special military operation” zone in Ukraine.^{111,112}
- At the opening of the shift, the flag of the Russian Federation was solemnly raised on the flagpole while the Russian anthem was performed. The flag team also added the flags of Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet. The activities planned for the shift included training for pre-conscription youth, the regional stage of the All-Russian military sports game “Kozachiy Spolokh” (Cossack Alert), “ready for work and defence” activities, “Young Rescuer” activities, and laser tag. The children were taught about the history of the Russian Cossacks, Cossack culture, traditions and lifestyle, Cossack cuisine, and Cossack folk medicine.¹¹³

111 <https://vsko.ru/kazachata-rossii-leto-proveli-s-polzozoj/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/L7Rvp>

112 https://vk.com/wall-193303062_8814; archive: <https://archive.li/XRxtK>

113 https://vk.com/wall-193303062_8741; archive: <https://archive.li/omhTQ>

- Throughout the week of the shift, the children underwent intensive training in the following areas: flanking, first aid, disassembling/assembling a weight and dimensional model of an assault rifle AK-47 and magazine equipment, basic military training, Cossack history, and general physical training. The organisers note that “this created an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, which became a solid foundation for future servants of the homeland” [the homeland means the Russian Federation].¹¹⁴
- During the specialised shift “Time of the First”, an exhibition of weapons was held for children;¹¹⁵ children made gifts for the members of the so-called “special military operation”;^{116,117} camp participants were involved in weaving camouflage nets; sending “aid” to the front line was organised;¹¹⁸ and the Day of the Russian Federation Flag was celebrated.¹¹⁹

“PROMETHEY” (PROMETHEUS)

Official name: Limited Liability Company “Prometey”, Children’s Sanatorium Complex “Prometey”

Address: 15 Druzhby Alley, Zaozerne village, Yevpatoriya, AR of Crimea.

Director: Eliza Aleksandrovna Zakaryan.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is more than 1000. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <http://prometey82.ru/>

In July-August this year, 380 children from the TOT of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as the TOT of Mariupol were accommodated in the institution.¹²⁰

During the “recreation”, the children were given activities aimed at popularising Russian history and destroying Ukrainian identity in the form of an erudition game “Let us pay homage to the great years”, which the organisers noted was an important step towards fostering patriotic feelings and pride in Russia.¹²¹

114 https://vk.com/wall-204764391_1717; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/1pwFg>

115 https://vk.com/wall-205029193_9191; archive: <https://archive.li/4WNLZ>

116 https://vk.com/wall-205029193_10128; archive: <https://archive.li/yaBiA>

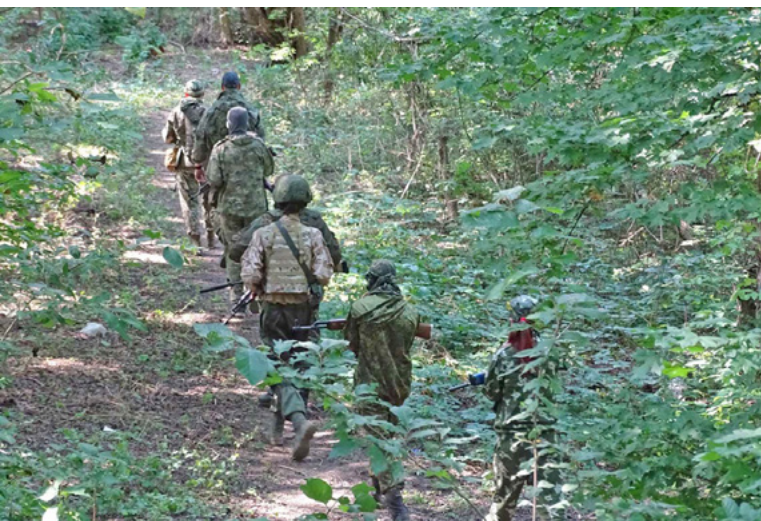
117 https://m.vk.com/wall-205029193_10259; archive: <https://archive.li/fAIBD>

118 https://vk.com/wall-205029193_10395; archive: <https://archive.li/W0dEA>

119 https://vk.com/wall-205029193_10652; archive: <https://archive.li/lriai>

120 https://vk.com/@rso_crimea-nashe-trudovoe-let-denb-68; archive: <https://archive.ph/XxMwA>

121 https://vk.com/wall-91628591_22966; archive: <https://archive.li/FmDm6>



“RADUGA” (RAINBOW)

Official name: Federal State Budgetary Institution “Children’s recreational boarding house “Raduga” of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation

Address: 19, Naberezhna Street, Pishchane village, Bakhchisaray district, AR of Crimea.

Director: Andrey Viktorovich Razayev.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 373. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <https://www.crimea-raduga.ru/>

There is information about the military-sports and heroic-patriotic orientation of the institution, which includes, in particular, bus excursions “Hero City Sevastopol” and “Battle of Alma”. During one of the shifts, the children wrote letters to Russian soldiers. There are materials about the military-patriotic programme of military training for children aged 8-15 years “Young Knight”, some of whose events are held at the children’s recreational boarding house “Raduga”.¹²²

122 <https://детский-отдых.com/юный-витязь.html>; archive: <https://archive.li/WiTOE>

“FORTUNA” (FORTUNE)

Official name: State Budgetary Institution of Additional Education of the Republic of Crimea “Children’s Health Centre “Fortuna”.

Address: 37, Druzhby Alley, Zaozerne village, Yevpatoriya, AR of Crimea.

Director: Rustem Adzhybramovich Khalitov.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 500. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <http://doc-fortuna.ru/>

Between 09.08.2023 and 29.08.2023, a patriotic shift “We are heirs to the Victory” was held, as well as a legal shift aimed at developing children and adolescents’ moral qualities, a sense of pride in “Russia’s heroic past and creating conditions for the formation of law-abiding behaviour and instilling legal knowledge and legal culture in children”.¹²³

“ZDRAVNICA” (HEALTH RESORT)

Official name: State Budgetary Institution of the Republic of Crimea “Clinical Sanatorium for Children and Children with Parents “Zdravnitsa”

Address: 21, Gorky St. and 41-43, Kyivska St, Yevpatoriya, AR of Crimea.

Director: Sergey Ismoylovych Nazriyev.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is about 500. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <http://крымздравница.РФ>

On 1 August 2023, an event aimed at promoting Russian history and destroying Ukrainian identity was held in the form of an erudition game “Let us pay homage to the great years” dedicated to the siege of Stalingrad during World War II. The organisers stated that the aim of the event was to educate young people in patriotism and to foster respect for the history of the Russian Federation. The best participants were awarded diplomas of knowledge of the material covered.¹²⁴

¹²³ <https://doc-fortuna.ru/ozdorovlenie/smeny-i-ceny/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/A4eme>

¹²⁴ https://m.vk.com/wall-91628591_22965; archive: <https://archive.ph/lwK9X>

CAMPS WHERE RE-EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT FOR CHILDREN FROM THE TOT OF UKRAINE

“ART-KVEST” (ART-QUEST)

Official name: Limited Liability Company “Art-Kvest”.

Address: 11, Morskaya St., Saki, AR of Crimea.

Director: Vladyslav Viktorovych Belousov.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 380. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <https://art-quest.org/>

During the summer campaign of 2023, about 500 children from the TOT of Zaporizhzhia region (from Pologovsk, Tokmak and Kuibyshev districts) were “recreated” in the institution, which was funded from the budget of the Penza region of the Russian Federation on the instructions of Governor Oleg Melnichenko. Two themed shifts were organised for the children, i.e. “Game of Monopoly” and “New Time for New Generation”.^{125,126}

125 <https://penzavzglyad.ru/news/149693/penzenskaya-oblast-kupila-putevki-na-more-500-detyam-iz-zaporozhya>; archive: <https://archive.ph/zzIN3>

126 <https://crimea.ria.ru/20230712/deti-iz-zaporozhskoy-oblasti-edut-na-ozdorovlenie-v-krym-1130008501.html>; archive: <https://archive.li/ikraH>

“ROSSIYA” (RUSSIA)

Official name: Federal State Budgetary Institution “Children’s recreational boarding house “Rossiya” of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation.

Address: 25, Ivan Franko St., Yevpatoriya, AR of Crimea.

Director: Anzhelika Viktorovna Alekseyeva.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is up to 600. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official website: <https://пансионатроссия.рф>

In 2023, at the expense of the state and regional budgets of the Russian Federation, with the assistance of the Russian Presidential Administration and patrons from Kaliningrad, Pskov, Voronezh, Kaluga regions and Kuban, 2000 children from the TOT of Kherson region were taken to a camp for “recreation”. It is known about the “recreation” of orphans from the TOT of Oleshky district of Kherson region.^{127,128} The transfer of the children was organised by the head of the occupation administration of the Skadovsk municipal district, Sergey Shvayko, and the so-called deputy head, Lyudmila Kozlova.¹²⁹

“AY KEMP” (I-CAMP)

Official name: Structural subdivision of the Limited Liability Company “Chernomor Invest” International Children’s and Youth Centre “Ay Camp”

Address: 17, Naberezhnaya Street, Pishchane village, Bakhchisaray district, AR of Crimea

Director: Vitaliy Sergeyevich Shcherbina

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 500. During the calendar summer of 2023, 7 shifts were held.

Official website: <http://campicamp.ru/>

In 2023, at the expense of the state and regional budgets of the Russian Federation, with the assistance of the political party “United Russia” and JSC “Rosatom”, and at the expense of the budgetary funds of the “patron regions”, “recreation” for children from the TOT of Energodar was organised in this institution. The children were given lessons on Russian history, in which the TOT of Ukraine were positioned as “new regions of the Russian Federation”.^{130,131}

127 https://t.me/Genichesk_ru/6253; archive: <https://archive.ph/WHvxo>

128 https://t.me/Genichesk_ru/6186; archive: <https://archive.ph/YMPyM>

129 https://t.me/VGA_Skadovsk/5473; archive: <https://archive.ph/pT1QO>

130 https://t.me/o_brd/4963; archive: <https://archive.ph/CGVAo>

131 <https://t.me/energodarTV/24>; archive: <https://archive.ph/GRzDa>



“YUNOST” (YOUTH)

Official name: Limited Liability Company “Kalamitsky Breeze” Children’s Health Camp “Yunost”

Address: 7 Druzhby Alley, Zaozerne village, Yevpatoriya, AR of Crimea.

Director: Nikolay Nikolayevich Moiseyev.

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 600. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official page in social networks: <https://vk.link/unocamp>

In August 2023, the Crimean regional branch of the all-Russian public organisation “Russian Red Cross” (hereinafter referred to as the RRC) held a training session on emergency medical care, which was attended by children from the TOT of Nova Kakhovka, Kherson region. There is information that similar events were held for 10000 children and that 34 representatives of the RRC were involved in these activities. A comment on this event was provided by the RRC representative Vladimir Bauchkin.¹³²



132 https://vk.com/wall-201303207_4138; archive: <https://archive.ph/qbo9y>

“ZHEMCHUZHINA” (PEARL)

Official name: Limited Liability Company “Zhemchuzhina”.

Address: 21, Druzhby Alley, Yevpatoriya, Zaozerne village, AR of Crimea.

Director: Andrey Vasilyevich Dudarev

The number of children who can be accommodated per shift is 550. During the summer of 2023, 4 shifts were held.

Official page in social networks: <https://vk.com/public220832615>

In August 2023, the budget of the Pskov region of the Russian Federation funded “recreation” of 45 children, accompanied by four local teachers, from the TOT of Henichesk district, Kherson region.¹³³ In the same month, the Novgorod region of the Russian Federation funded the stay of 100 children from the TOT of Zaporizhzhia region.¹³⁴ There is video footage of an event in the institution aimed at romanticising the events of World War II.¹³⁵

133 https://t.me/Genichesk_ru/6737; archive: <https://archive.ph/hsuf1>

134 https://vk.com/wall-217630752_1157; archive: <https://archive.ph/oGL1x>

135 https://vk.com/video/@public220832615?z=video-220832615_456239154%2Fclub220832615%2Fpl_-220832615_-2; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/4DGZf>

MILITARY AND “PATRIOTIC” EVENTS

“KRYMSKIY RUBEZH” (CRIMEAN FRONTIER)

The military field exercises “Krymskiy Rubezh” were organised in the form of a tent camp, which was held in 5-day shifts during the summer. A total of 11 shifts were held.¹³⁶ Similar gatherings on the territory of occupied Crimea have been held annually since 2016, including: the military-patriotic training “Sons of the Fatherland” in 2016,¹³⁷ military field training in the temporarily occupied village of Hvardiyske on the basis of the military unit 46451 in the summer of 2019,¹³⁸ Yunarmeytskiy Rubezh” (Youth Army Frontier) – in 2021,^{139,140} “Young defender of the Fatherland” in the summer of 2022.^{141,142,143} At least 600 children from the TOT of Crimea and Kherson region took part in the military field training camp “Krymskiy Rubezh” in 2023.^{144,145} The camps were located in temporarily occupied Simferopol at the Zavodske airfield and in the temporarily occupied village of Mykolayivka, Simferopol district of Crimea.

The organiser of these field training camp is the State Budgetary Educational Institution of Additional Education of the Republic of Crimea “Regional Centre for Preparation for Military Service and Military-Patriotic Education, named for short as “Krympatriot Center” (among its tasks is to develop the qualities of patriotism in the minds of young people, foster loyalty to Russia and readiness to defend it, prepare teenagers for service in the Russian Armed Forces, and attract young people to actively participate in military-applied sports), headed by Dmitriy Aleksandrovich Polkovnikov.

136 https://vk.com/crimeapatriot?w=wall-217363296_1497; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/fB246>

137 https://vk.com/wall-124993512_447; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/rlvSF>

138 https://vk.com/wall-124993512_3365; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/i0dM7>

139 https://vk.com/wall-124993512_6751; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/hwUUr>

140 https://vk.com/wall-124993512_6759; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/hdCP5>

141 https://vk.com/wall-124993512_8688; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/9MvXB>

142 https://vk.com/wall-124993512_8921; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/tTOe8>

143 https://vk.com/wall-124993512_8658; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/GpKns>

144 https://vk.com/video-217363296_456239376; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/riBBn>

145 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1378; archive: <https://archive.li/RNwiR>

The training camp was supported by the Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army of the Air Force and Navy of the Republic of Crimea,¹⁴⁶ which includes military-patriotic clubs engaged in patriotic education of youth and preparation for service in the Russian armed forces, headed by Andrey Aleksandrovich Popov.¹⁴⁷

Photo and video evidence shows that during their stay in the camp, children were dressed daily in military uniforms with Russian Federation symbols,¹⁴⁸ underwent training in weapons handling,¹⁴⁹ provision of medical care,¹⁵⁰ physical training,¹⁵¹ simulated a military situation on the battlefield,¹⁵² underwent assault and reconnaissance training,¹⁵³ imitated wounded and dead soldiers,¹⁵⁴ and participated in other activities,^{155,156} which indicates the militarisation and indoctrination of Ukrainian children.^{157,158}

In particular, the following events are worth noting.

- Celebration of Russia Day, where children had Russian symbols painted on their faces and were given small Russian flags that “evoked a sense of belonging and patriotism”. The Russian flag was also unfurled, and children received tricolour ribbons – “a symbol of unity and pride in Russia”.¹⁵⁹
- Holding a field training at Zavodskoye airport, aimed at “forming a patriotic worldview and deep respect for the history and culture of Russia”.¹⁶⁰
- Conducting firearms training and self-defence courses for children in a deployed military field camp.¹⁶¹
- Conducting a military tactical game “Fire Raid”, where children were assigned roles: snipers, grenade launchers, stormtroopers, medics, etc., and fired weapons and simulated the conditions of warfare.¹⁶²

146 <https://crimea.mk.ru/social/2023/08/07/startovala-ocherednaya-smena-polevykh-sborov-krymskiy-rubezh.html>; archive: <https://archive.li/DQlgc>

147 <https://dosAAF82.ru/rukovodstvo/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/POLDK>

148 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1313; archive: <https://archive.li/mOkYv>

149 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1423; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/9jwFm>

150 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1380; archive: <https://archive.li/q70mL>

151 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1416; archive: <https://archive.li/5eDQ3>

152 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1388; archive: <https://archive.li/UbQSy>

153 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1389; archive: <https://archive.ph/YtOHo>

154 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1430; archive: <https://archive.li/bcfQp>

155 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1387; archive: <https://archive.li/ZHS0n>

156 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1307; archive: <https://archive.li/445MI>

157 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1372; archive: <https://archive.li/GHQ27>

158 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1475; archive: <https://archive.li/aIymI>

159 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1300; archive: <https://archive.li/x4bq4>

160 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1302; archive: <https://archive.li/j9khv>

161 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1378; archive: <https://archive.li/RNwiR>

162 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1397; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/xlwR3>



- Involvement of children in congratulations on the Day of the Russian Airborne Forces. As part of this activity, children demonstrated their military training skills on video.¹⁶³
- Participation of children in the filming of the film “The Youth Army is back in action. Florida 2023”.¹⁶⁴
- Conducting courses in combat engineering and firearms training, including for girls: marching, shooting from different types of weapons, first aid.¹⁶⁵

In addition, it is worth noting that at the opening of the shift, the organisers stated that the children had started to learn military training,¹⁶⁶ and the end of the second shift was described by the organisers with the motto: “We are strong. We are united. We are loyal. We are patriots of our country.” A video posted with the caption “CRIMEAN FRONTIER | 2nd shift | 3rd day” shows children dressed in military uniforms with the symbols of the Russian Armed Forces undergoing military training, including learning to shoot from different weapons, marching in formation, being in trenches, learning to fly drones, mine/demine the territory, throwing shovels and axes.¹⁶⁷

The organisers justify the need to hold the training camps by arguing that they are necessary for the ideological education of schoolchildren, including those from the TOT of Ukraine, and distort facts, stating:

“Many residents of the new regions [in this context, the TOT of Ukraine], where the Ukrainian authorities have been pursuing a harsh Russophobic policy for eight years, are also reorienting their views. And while an adult can still somehow distinguish the truth from an outright lie,

¹⁶³ https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1404; archive: <https://archive.li/1Qfes>

¹⁶⁴ https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1413; archive: <https://archive.li/1FZXJ>

¹⁶⁵ https://npavl.krymschool.ru/news-svc/item?id=433965&lang=ru&type=news&site_type=school; archive: <https://archive.li/6s6fl>

¹⁶⁶ https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1318; archive: <https://archive.li/Q1KPw>

¹⁶⁷ https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1340; archive: <https://archive.li/RUazu>

*it is much more difficult for children to do so. Any information, even the most absurd, can be easily planted in immature minds and presented as the truth. In fact, this is exactly what the Ministry of Education of Ukraine was doing when it published textbooks with clearly distorted historical facts”.*¹⁶⁸

“YUNARMEYSKIY RUBEZH” (YOUTH ARMY FRONTIER)

The military field training and search camps took place within the framework of the project “Youth Army Frontier”. The grant project “Youth Army Frontier” was funded by the so-called State Committee for Youth Policy of the Republic of Crimea and included several events.



- From 26 June to 1 July 2023, a military field training and search camp “School of Young Archaeologist” was held in the TOT of Yakovenkove village, Zavetninsky village settlement, Leninsky district of Crimea, for Youth Army units, military-patriotic clubs and cadet classes of Crimea. The training camp was organised by the Crimean Regional Historical, Patriotic and Search NGO “Union of Heirs of Traditions”, the State Budgetary Educational Institution of Additional Education of the Republic of Crimea “Krympatriot Center”, the Crimean Airborne Troops Union and the Institute of Archeology of Crimea of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Lectures were held for children, and the symbols of the Russian Federation, the “Youth Army” and other Russian organisations were used in military field training.¹⁶⁹

- From 10 to 15 July 2023, on the TOT of the Krasnogvardeisky district of Crimea, children from the “Youth Army” took part in the military and patriotic field training “Cadet Landing”. In addition to the Youth Army units, pupils of military-patriotic clubs and cadet classes

168 https://vk.com/wall-217363296_1376; archive: <https://archive.li/WgTpZ>

169 https://vk.com/wall419811617_357; archive: <https://archive.li/FNJjH>



in Crimea also participated. The children took part in theoretical and practical programmes, including firearms training, tactical training, military training in radiation, chemical and biological defence, medical training, parachute skills, drill training, and more, as well as laser tag and strike ball games. As part of the event, each unit prepared combat letters, i.e. the children wrote letters to the Russian Armed Forces military fighting against Ukraine and delivered them to the area of the so-called “special military operation”. The meeting was organised by the Crimean Regional Historical and Patriotic Search NGO “Union of Heirs of Traditions”, “Krympatriot Center” and the Crimean Airborne Troops Union.^{170,171}

- From 17 to 22 July 2023, the military-patriotic field training camp “Crimean Dawn” was held on the TOT of the Krasnogvardeisky district of Crimea among Youth Army units, military-patriotic clubs and cadet classes of Crimea. The training camp was organised by the Crimean Regional Historical, Patriotic and Search NGO “Union of Heirs of Traditions”, the Crimean Regional State Educational Institution “Krympatriot Center” and the Crimean Airborne Troops Union. Every day in the morning, children began classes: tactical training, military training in radiation, chemical and biological protection, basic physical training, firearms training, tactical medicine, pre-parachute training, etc. The children were involved in writing “combat letters” and “letters to the soldier” (to the military of the Russian Armed Forces fighting against Ukraine).¹⁷²

170 <https://yunarmy.ru/press-center/news/yunarmeyskiy-kadetskiy-desant-v-krymu/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/lmWVJ>

171 https://vk.com/wall419811617_364; archive: <https://archive.li/2Peqo>

172 https://vk.com/wall419811617_368; archive: <https://archive.li/y4rmB>



“KUBOK 51 ARMII” (THE 51ST ARMY CUP)

The fifth open military sports games for the 51st Army Cup among Youth Army units, military-patriotic clubs and cadet classes of the Chervonogradsky district of Crimea were held at the TOT. The event was dedicated to the “79th anniversary of the liberation of Crimea from Nazi invaders and the 78th anniversary of the victory in the war”. This year, 18 teams from the TOTs of Chervonogvardeisky, Simferopol, Dzhankoy, Chornomorsk districts and the city of Kerch took part in the competition. Teams of children from the TOT of Kherson region, in particular from the Kalanchak district, also took part in the competition. As can be seen in the photos posted, the children were dressed in military uniforms, assembling and disassembling weapons and firing them.¹⁷³

“YUNYY VODOLAZ” (YOUNG DIVER)

From 1 to 4 August 2023, the TOT of Sevastopol hosted the annual Youth Army Military Sports Games, namely the stage called “”, in which 16 teams from different regions of Russia competed for 4 days on the shore in diving training elements, as well as on the water, i.e. in the pool at the Artek International Children’s Centre. The opening ceremony was attended by Sergey Kolbin, Senator of the Russian Federation, who, in particular, said: “I am very pleased that so many young talents, charged with patriotism, picking up everything on the fly, will be able to

173 https://t.me/crimean_patriot/3804; archive: <https://archive.li/amZrS>



demonstrate their individual skills, team skills, and professional skills as young divers today. This is very encouraging. Why? Because we have to make every effort to train reliable defenders in our country in such a difficult time. True patriots who love their homeland, love their Fatherland and are always ready to defend it”.^{174,175,176}

As part of these games, children underwent both theoretical and practical training: they overcame training ranges, flew drones, provided first aid, passed the scout obstacle course, studied the history of small arms, carried out rescue operations on a simulated battlefield, demonstrate their skills in high-altitude training, and performed tests on military simulators. The Youth Army Games are organised by the organization “Youth Army” in cooperation with the Russian Ministry of Defence.^{177,178} The video describes the types of tasks that the children performed as part of the competition, including assembling and disassembling weapons.¹⁷⁹

The children who took part in the Young Diver competition recorded a video message to the Russian military.¹⁸⁰

174 <https://nts-tv.com/news/v-sevastopole-startoval-etap-vserossiyskikh-yunarm-47239/?ysclid=lkuu8dw86e340857586>; archive: <https://archive.li/a9A07>

175 https://vk.com/wall-212423849_377; archive: <https://archive.li/ZcZ0y>

176 https://vk.com/wall-122681115_6142; archive: <https://archive.li/kDMYD>

177 <https://pobedarf.ru/2023/08/02/yunarmejskie-igry-startovali-v-rossii/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/zfh4R>

178 <https://yunarmy.ru/press-center/news/vserossiyskie-yunarmejskie-voenno-sportivnye-igry-startuyut-v-avguste/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/c9n6t>

179 https://m.vk.com/wall-122681115_6124; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/guNNC>

180 https://m.vk.com/wall-122681115_6125; archive: <https://archive.li/sSjkM>

“PARUSA PAMYATI CHERNOGO MORYA – 2023” (BLACK SEA MEMORY SAILS - 2023)

In April 2023, the project “Symbols of the State - Through the Ages” was launched in the TOT of Sevastopol. Part of the project was the sailing trip “Sails of Memory of the Black Sea - 2023”. The event was aimed at russifying children, glorifying the Russian Federation, and promoting the profession of the Russian military. In particular, the project’s organiser, the Sevastopol branch of the All-Russian Children’s and Youth Military and Patriotic Public Movement “Youth Army”, notes that its main task is “to instil in children a sense of love and respect for the symbols of the Russian Federation: the flag, anthem and coat of arms. Getting to know their history and understanding their significance

contributes to the development of sincere patriotism in children.” The project consisted of two stages: theoretical and practical. Over 650 participants attended 15 lectures on the Russian flag, coat of arms and anthem. Officers of the Russian Armed Forces, yacht and ship captains who had participated in sea voyages spoke to the children about maritime professions. The project “Symbols of the State - Through the Ages” is implemented by the School of Future Commanders with the support of the Presidential Grants Foundation.^{181,182} The general partner of the project is the Russian Black Sea Fleet. The main motto and slogan of the project: “Russia is a maritime power, our spirit is invincible!”¹⁸³



181 <https://sevdobro.ru/участники-севастопольского-проекта/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/tylkV>

182 <https://rutube.ru/video/b2b8fee452f920eacf6d279c5108b26f/>; archive: <https://archive.ph/wip/ySGws>

183 <https://artek.org/press-centr/news/sostoyalsya-tretyi-etap-ezhegodnogo-molodezhnogo-morskogo-pohoda-parusa-pamyati-chernogo-morya/>; archive: <https://archive.li/4S4k0>



Our mission

We are approaching the reintegration of the population of the de-occupied territories and laying the foundations for guarantees of non-repetition.

