

UPF St. Petersburg and UPF Vladivostok Russia's Peace Road Events Inspire

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St. Petersburg, Russia – This year, two separate Peace Road activities were held in St. Petersburg – one with a cultural theme, and the other a traditional cycling event. The first event, on September 14, 2025, celebrated the 165th anniversary of the birth of Anton Chekhov, one of Russia’s greatest writers and playwrights, whose works such as *The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *The Cherry Orchard* are recognized worldwide. Chekhov was also a practicing physician, and his humanistic ideas continue to inspire people toward compassion, harmony, and good deeds.



In a cozy atmosphere, guests gathered to reflect on his legacy. Twenty participants enthusiastically joined in a quiz on the life and works of Anton Chekhov, hosted by **Ms. Lyudmila Samoilova**, in which the spirit of competition blended with the joy of discovering new facts and recalling beloved works. Mr. Nikolai Sokurov spoke about the Peace Road project and its mission to bring people together through culture, dialogue, and shared good deeds. A memorable highlight of the meeting was the screening of an old

animated film based on Chekhov's short story *The Complainer*, followed by hot tea and lively conversation.

On September 21, the UN International Day of Peace, the second stage of the Peace Road cultural and sports project was held. The grand finale was a bicycle ride through the picturesque Sosnovka Park, bringing together participants of all ages. The cyclists split into two groups so that everyone could find a comfortable pace. The sports group, led by coordinator **Mr. Evgeny Mirzyanov**, confidently covered the longer route, while the family group with children enjoyed a shorter and more leisurely trail.



After the active cycling trip, everyone was welcomed with tea, songs accompanied by guitar, and heartfelt conversations. It was a wonderful opportunity to share impressions and discuss plans for future gatherings.

Vladivostok, Russia – On September 21, a group of adults and children led by the **Sergienko family** gathered to mark the International Day of Peace by caring for the Alley

of Remembrance, a commemorative walkway on Vladivostok's renovated waterfront that honors heroes of World War II, featuring 80 trees symbolizing life and the continuity of generations. Participants worked to tidy the grounds, water trees, and honor the memory of those who gave their lives for peace.

What made this day unique was its warmth and family spirit. The younger members did more than help their parents – they spoke aloud the names of heroes, planted flowers near commemorative plaques, and learned that peace begins with memory and gratitude. This event became a lesson in responsibility and cultural heritage.

UPF emphasizes that building peace is not only about international forums and diplomatic initiatives, but also about simple, heartfelt actions in everyday life. Supporting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 16 – peace, justice, and strong institutions – UPF works to foster a culture of peace through family, education, and service to others.

This initiative demonstrated how personal responsibility and respect for history can inspire the next generation to do good. Such acts embody the principle at the heart of UPF programs: living for the sake of others as the path to human unity.

This International Day of Peace offered a reminder that peace is not only a diplomatic goal but also a daily choice, a series of small steps toward a world where people live together as one family.