

Crane Nest Initiative: Apricots, Mountains and Reflections - Armenia

Hovhannes Barseghyan
May 16, 2026

CRANE NEST INITIATIVE:
Apricots, Mountains and Reflections

June 25 - July 1, 2026, Armenia

You can look forward to meaningful fellowship, encounters with the cultural treasures of Armenia, engaging discussions, the experience of a true Heavenly community, and hiking!

Get registered!

Contact Us
www.craneni.org

Crane Nest Initiative: Apricots, Mountains and Reflections Armenia, June 25 - July 1, 2026

craneni.org

Do you feel close to the values of the Unification Movement?

Would you like to discover Armenia and experience a new culture?

Are you looking for a community of people who share your views and beliefs?

Are you thinking about engagement and the Blessing?

Join us from June 25 to July 1, 2026, in Armenia! This is your chance to meet like-minded people, feel support, and immerse yourself in Armenian culture. Here you can strengthen connections, grow in confidence, and gain valuable experience, skills, and friendships.

Don't miss this opportunity! Join "Crane Nest: apricots, mountains, and reflections with friends"!

You can also support us on [Patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com) so we can run our programs more effectively.

Details of the upcoming event can be found [here](#). Hiking program instructions are available [here](#).



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Hello! Welcome to the Crane Nest Initiative website!

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Third European Youth Retreat "Crane Nest: apricots, mountains, and reflections with friends"

You can look forward to meaningful fellowship, encounters with the cultural treasures of Armenia, engaging discussions, the experience of a true Heavenly community, and hiking! [Here](#) you will find more information about our team.

Registration is open until June 1, 2026.

PARTICIPANTS

REGISTRATION

Dates: June 25–27, 2026 — Crane Nest; June 28–July 1, 2026 — hiking
Location for the first three days of the program: Yerevan, Armenia, [village Bardzrashen](#)



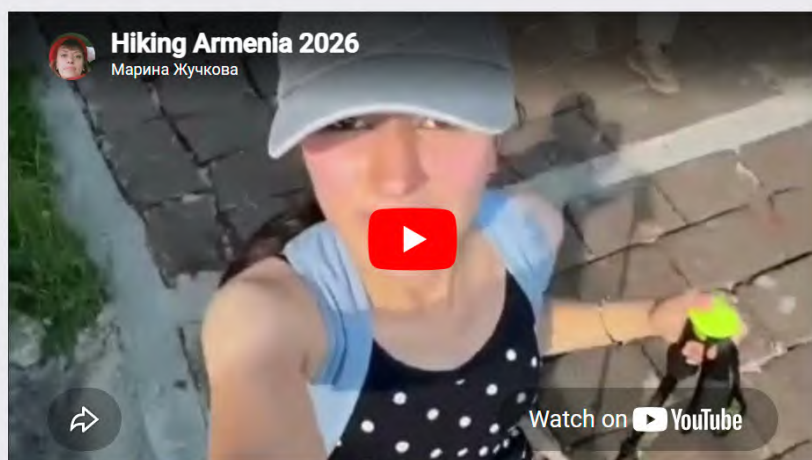
Price:

Events	Full Days	Cost (USD)
Cranes Nest (June 25-27)	3	150
Cranes Nest + 2days Hiking (June 25-29)	5	230
Cranes Nest + 4days Hiking (June 25 – July 1)	7	300
Only 4 days Hiking (June 28 – July 1)	4	200



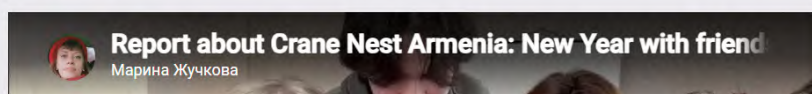
Video in [Rutube](#)

Watch the video about the hiking trip that will take place as part of our program in summer 2026



Watch this video on [Rutube](#).

Watch the recap video of the event that took place in Armenia in winter 2025–2026



Crane Nest Program Schedule

Day 1 — Wednesday, June 24

Arrival of participants

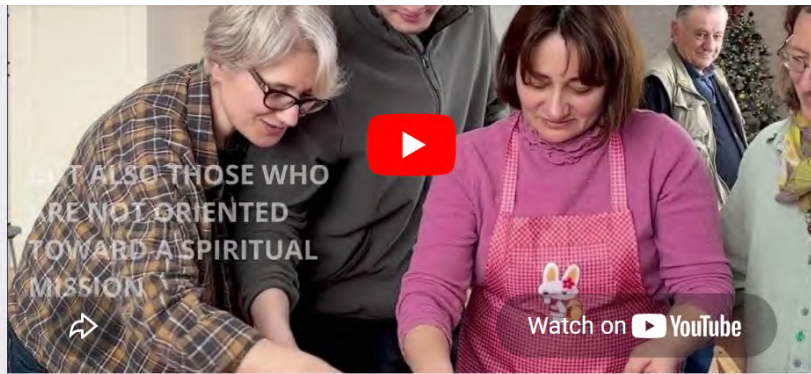
Day 2 — Thursday, June 25

09:00–09:30 — Official program opening
09:30–11:00 — Apricots (picking, tasting, and preserving)

12:00–13:00 — Presentation: **"Who Am I and My Calling"**

16:00 — Walk around Yerevan, sightseeing

Day 3 — Friday, June 26



If YouTube doesn't open, try watching it [here](#)



Watch it on Rutube

News



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09:30–11:00 — Apricots (picking, tasting, and preserving)

12:00–13:00 — Presentation: **“Why We Need Each Other”**

18:00 — Armenian cultural evening (Armenian dances, songs, and cuisine)

Day 4 — Saturday, June 27

09:30–11:00 — Apricots (picking, tasting, and preserving)

12:00–13:00 — Presentation: **“How to Preserve Yourself While Staying in Relationships”**

18:00 — Family evening, concert, campfire

Hiking Program Schedule

Day 1 — Sunday, June 28

07:00 — Departure to the starting point

10:00 — Arrival at the starting point
Khachardzan — Gosh Lake
Gosh Lake — Goshavank

Day 2 — Monday, June 29

07:00 — Goshavank — Dilijan

Day 3 — Tuesday, June 30

07:00 — Dilijan — Haghartsin Monastery

Day 4 — Wednesday, July 1

07:00 — Haghartsin Monastery — Hovk summit — Haghartsin Monastery

Day 5 — Thursday, July 2

Departure of participants



Meet our team

The Crane's Nest Initiative was launched in the summer of 2024, bringing together first- and second-generation individuals who value building the Unification Movement into a community of like-minded people, united by shared values and mutual trust. We noticed that warm and friendly connections among brothers and sisters are sometimes lacking, both within and between countries, making it harder for some to feel confident in their decision to commit to a Blessing.

Our goal is to create a space where everyone can find friends, gain confidence, and experience support. We will grow together with those seeking connection, mutual understanding, and the joy of genuine, strong bonds that benefit each person, their future family, and their place in the wider community.



Alexey and Olga Saveliyevs
Leaders of the Crane's Nest Initiative, founders and leaders of the Strong Families' Academy "Familymen"
[Telegram](#)



Ovaness and Nora Barsegian
Leaders of the Armenian Unification Movement, hosts
[Facebook](#)



Anton and Marina Zhuchkovs
Media managers



Andranik Karagezian
Expert speaker, High Noon Europe Chapter Leader
Professional photographer, bachelors degree in Political Science, blessed in 2021.



Natalia Osipova
Crane's Nest Initiative's event participants manager, ceramic artist, creative community coordinator
[Вконтакте](#) [Telegram](#)



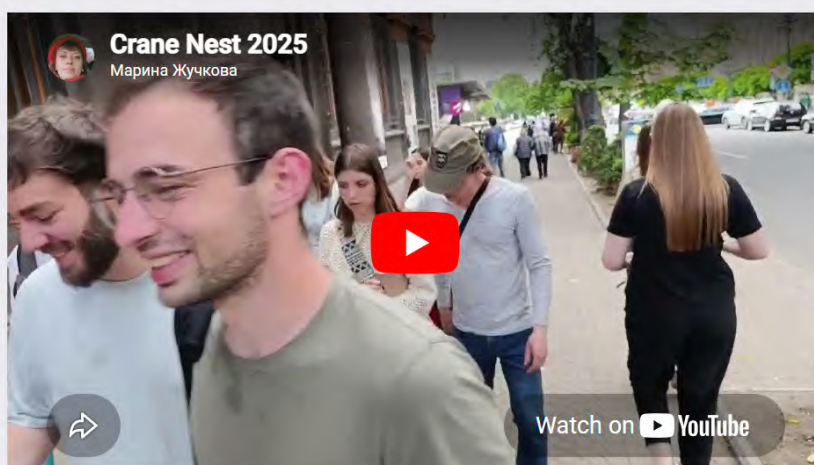
Andrei and Diana Eshanu
Director, International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (Eastern Europe)

Andrei and Diana Esanu were blessed in marriage on 03.03.2015 in Seoul, Korea. They have 3 children, Olivia, Delia and Mia . They provide trainings on husband and wife harmonious relationships and how to become good parents. They provide trainings on husband and wife harmonious relationships and how to become good parents. Andrei and Diana are both medical doctors with Master Degrees from University of Porto, Portugal. Diana is a cardiologist and Medical Doctor at Peace Corps. Besides her main work as a medical doctor she is involved in many projects with youth and families organized by FFWPU Moldova. Andrei is Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist with training in Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy, including courses on couple therapy. Consultant at United Nations in Moldova on coaching for families with people with disabilities. President of the NGO FFWPU in Moldova. Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, State University of Medicine.



Dear friends! From May 8 to 12, the first international youth retreat — Crane's Nest Armenia — was held in Armenia, bringing together 30 participants each day from five countries: Armenia, Lithuania, Hungary, Moldova, and Russia! The program took place in a newly built educational center near Yerevan and was filled with engaging sessions, discussions, fellowship, and creative activities. Special focus was given to building and developing a youth community. Participants shared personal experiences, receiving inspiration and support from both elder community members and one another. Unforgettable moments included campfire evenings, Armenian dances, delicious food, a hike, and immersion in local culture. The retreat became an important step toward creating a youth community rooted in the values of heart and family.

See the video report about the retreat!



[Rutube video](#)

We have plenty of inspiring photos as well!





Stay tuned for the announcement of the next retreat!



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Regulations

Welcome to the Crane's Nest Initiative

The retreats of the Crane's Nest Initiative are special events for the young people from the Unification Movement! To ensure a comfortable and productive experience for all participants, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the values and goals of the Crane Nest Initiative, as well as with the guidelines for our upcoming gathering in Yerevan.

Crane's Nest Initiative Values

Growth: Through collaboration, we grow and help each other develop emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually.

Mutual respect: We respect each other as individuals with different viewpoints, worldviews, and feelings. We all hold equal value in the eyes of God.

Relationships: We believe in the importance of emotional and moral preparation for starting a family, the purity of relationships between men and women, and the possibility of finding a partner who shares similar values, interests, and life goals, which creates a strong foundation for long-term and happy relationships.

The freedom to be yourself: We can interact honestly and openly with one another without fear of judgment, fostering an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

Care for the world around us: We strive to improve ourselves and the world around us.

Participant Rules for the Event

To ensure everything goes smoothly, we kindly ask you to follow the rules outlined below:

Respect the rights of all participants, regardless of gender, cultural background, or beliefs.

Conditions for Participation

Participants must be familiar with the Unification Movement.

Participants under 18 years old must be accompanied by their

Goals of the Retreat in Yerevan

Broadening horizons and cultural enrichment — To deepen the understanding of the history and cultural traditions of different countries, exposing participants to the diversity of world heritage.

Building new connections and friendships — To facilitate introductions, live communication, and strengthen friendships among young members of the Unification Movement.

Enhancing intercultural communication — To develop skills for intercultural dialogue and understanding, uniting participants of our community's events.

Sharing experience and preparing for the future — To form knowledge and skills for deep and sincere communication between young people aiming to create families and receive the Blessing in the future.

Additional Conditions

Health: Please inform us in advance about any health conditions that may require special attention.

Contact Us

For any inquiries, you can reach out to us through our [contact form](#).

Program Features in Yerevan

Mutual trust, flexibility, openness, and mutual support in the relationships between organizers and participants.

The program does not include lectures or other religious education activities. Prayers and the reading of spiritual literature are personal matters for each individual.

The program includes visits to cultural landmarks in Armenia, an exploration of the country's cultural features and a number of sports activities.

Participants' parents are welcome to join the program.

Accommodation is available under the same conditions as for other participants. You can also choose any hotel or guesthouse located in close proximity to the village of Bardzrashen.

The primary language of the event is English.

Hiking route and guidelines

Mountain Hiking in Armenia

4-day trail: June 28 – July 1, 2026
 Arrival no later than June 27, 2026 or early morning June 28, 2026.
 Please register by June 1, 2026. The best way is through the website: <https://www.unificationmovement.org/usa/>

Armenia is the first Christian nation in the world and is built on an ancient culture with a history of more than 4,000 years. The trail passes through Dilijan National Park, known for its untouched breathtaking nature, churches and monasteries that are more than 1,000 years old, and the warm hospitality of Armenia. An experienced local Armenian guide will accompany us.

The route is part of the Trans-Caucasian Trail (TCT) — a project that will eventually span more than 2,000 km: <https://www.unificationmovement.org/tct/>

Participants will mainly be blessed families and friends, hopefully also from Europe. Our hope is to show friends and community members the beauty of Armenia and give Armenian youth an opportunity to build friendships.

General Guidelines

1. We start hiking each day between 07:00 and 08:00 in the morning.
2. There will be several breaks for rest and meals.
3. Overnight stays will be in guesthouses and hotels booked in advance by the organizers.
4. The team will prepare lunch boxes for the daytime hikes. Breakfast and dinner will be served at the hotels. Water will also be provided.
5. Rain ponchos will be provided in case of rain.
6. Take only what you need for the daily hike. Do not bring unnecessary or valuable items.
7. Medical assistance will be available if needed. The organizers will have basic painkillers, stomach medicine, and UV protection cream. You may also bring knee or ankle supports if you occasionally experience pain.

What to Bring

- A good attitude, a sense of humor, curiosity about the world, and determination.
- Comfortable walking shoes (new shoes should be worn for several days beforehand so they do not cause blisters).
- Light clothing for warm weather (T-shirts, hat or sun scarf) and warmer clothing for cooler temperatures (fleece or warm sweater), as well as wind and rain protection (light jacket or rain cap).

(Short hiking shorts are recommended — they work well in heat and sun, dry quickly, and do not restrict movement. When walking, legs usually do not get cold; hands and head cool faster.)

Light pants will be useful in the evening at a guesthouse or hostel.

parents.

Mandatory Requirements

Participation fee: see the financial calculations on the main page, to be paid at the beginning of the event.

Health insurance for the duration of the event.

Participants must bring the following:

Sleeping bag

Personal hygiene items

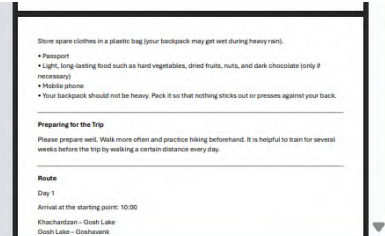
Clothing and footwear for 5 days, including active wear

Personal medications, if necessary

Behavior During the Event

Participants are not allowed to consume alcohol, smoke, or engage in other similar activities. Harassment in relationships with the opposite sex is strictly prohibited.

Please avoid any behavior that may endanger or harm other participants.



[Armenian Mountain Hiking guidelines](#)

DOWNLOAD



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