

The Russian Union Of Scouts/ Navigators

Information Release

The Russian Union of Scouts/Navigators (RUS/N), a national public organization, was created on January 31, 2004

The Constituent Congress of the Russian Union of Scouts/Navigators was hosted by the "Olympian" Centre for International Cooperation in the city of Khimki (Moscow Region) 149 delegates representing 49 Subjects (Regions) of the Russian Federation participated in the Congress.

The following individual citizens of Russia, active in the revival of the Scout Movement in the Russian Federation since the 1990s, have initiated the concept of the Russian Union of Scouts/Navigators

Anatoly A. Ermolin - a delegate of the 4th State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation; member of the International Affairs Committee of the State Duma laureate of the Russian Presidential Award for Education; Ph.D. (Pedagogical Sciences)-, author of a textbook for Scouts, participant in the Scout programs since 1990.

Vladimir V. Talanov - an Air Force Reserve Colonel; a renowned Frontier Troops pilot; highly decorated (including decorations received for an emergency rescue operation of children transported in an AN-72 airplane suffering from a control system failure), Director of the Istra Scout campground; participant in the Scout programmes since 1992.

Nikolai A. Akatov - a leading expert on the Yukos Oil Company-sponsored charitable programs for young people, author of the Progressive Persona! Development Program for Scout Groups; participant in the Scout programs since 1990.

Svetlana M. Avdeeva - Director of the Moscow Centre for Internet Education; laureate of the Russian Presidential Award for Education; Ph.D. (Technical Sciences); active leader of the summer Scout Programs; developer of Internet education programs for Scout leaders, participant in the Scout programs since 1995.

Alexander S. Prutchenkov - Professor of the Academy for Continuing Education and Retraining of Educational Experts. Ph.D. (Pedagogical Sciences), developer of the Game Approach Programs for Scouts; participant in the Scout programs since 1995

Over the course of the past 15 years the aforementioned individuals have been most active in the International Scout Programs held in Switzerland, Luxembourg, Chile, Thailand, the Netherlands, the Ukraine, Armenia, and Georgia, They have been awarded letters of recognition for their participation in the Scout Jamborees, and educated at the largest Scout Training Centres at Kandersteg and Gilwell Park.

Having made significant contributions to the international recognition of the Russian Scout Movement, as well as to the creation of the Russian National Scout Organization (RNSO), Ermolin, Talanov, Akatov, Avdeeva and Prutchenov together with a large group of regional leaders, distanced themselves from the RNSO executives due to differences in the respective interpretations of the

Scout Method, the RNSO management approach, and the RNSO's inability to develop substantial business relations with the Russian educational system, business enterprises, and official authorities.

Not wishing to institute an opposition (dissident) Scout organization, and understanding that any such opposition organization would contradict the Constitution of the World Scout Movement and have a negative impact primarily on the young participants themselves, the aforementioned team of Scout leaders has developed its own program, known as the Navigator Program, and based on the principal components of the Scout Method.

The choice of the term "navigator" to denote the Program's participants was not accidental. The image of a Navigator carries the same meaning and symbolism as that of a Scout. Both a Scout and a Navigator are pioneers, efficient leaders capable of assuming responsibility and a specific set of values in guiding a team of people.

Over the 7 years of the Navigator Program's operation, hundreds of thousands of young Russians have become its active participants. The Program has partner agreements for implementation with 30 Subjects (Regions) of the Russian Federation. The Program's 2003 Annual Report lists 544 participating Russian schools, 74 summer camps, and 42 new regional Navigator Clubs. At the present moment, the number of Navigator participants exceeds 153,000 people, while the Program's methodological assets include a vast army of educational programs for children and adult leaders alike.

The Program's strong reputation of 7 years has allowed for the creation of an effective fundraising system. While initially the Navigator Movement was 100% dependent on the charitable support of the Yukos Oil Company, starting in 2002, the aggregate annual volume of non-corporate funds successfully solicited for regional youth programs amounted to circa 14 million rubbles. -These are primarily the funds provided by the local educational budgets and non-state sources-, their involvement became possible thanks to the implementation of specially developed technique of non-commercial franchising.

One must note that, until 2004, the participants of the Navigator Program had not been formally structured within any officially registered organization, while the Navigator Movement was not based on fixed membership. As the aforementioned facts demonstrate, the establishment of the Russian Union of Scouts/Navigators was determined by the objective circumstances of the Navigator Program development, and the necessity to transfer its activities to a membership-based level. Meanwhile, the peak of the Program's popularity and success coincided with a very realistic threat of Russia's expulsion from the World Scout Brotherhood, due to the inability on the part of the RNSO management to organize the work in the Russian regions and ensure payment of membership fees. Given the situation, the developers and regional leaders of the Navigator Program have resolved to institute the Russian Union of Scouts/Navigators as Russia's national organization for children, one operating in accordance with the Scout Method; draft the Charter of the Russian Union of Scouts/Navigators in full accordance with the demands set forth in the Constitution of the World Scout Movement and to subsequently begin the Union's integration into the World Scout Movement

The Russian Union of Scouts/Navigators stands ready to assume responsibility for Scouting in Russia, and to achieve the International competitiveness thereof.

Anatoly A. Ermilon was elected Honorary President of the Russian Union of Scouts/Navigators

The following individuals serve as officials of the Russian Union of Scouts/ Navigators:

Vladimir V Talanov	President
Nikolai A. Akatov	Executive Director
	Chairman, Commission far Organizational Structuring
3Alexander S. Prutchenkov	Chairman, Commission for Strategic Development
Olga Y. Agarkava	Chairman, Commission for Programming
Alexei A. Sukhoi	Chairman, Commission for International Cooperation
Evgeniya A. Mereminskaya	Member, Commission for Imitational Cooperation
Igor V. Ivanov	Chairman, Commission for Regulations and Procedures
Vladimir G_ Igishev	Chairman, Commission for Training
Igor V. Fedarov	Chairman, Commission for Uniforms and Proprietary Attributes
Andrei B Emelin	Chairman, Commission for Information and Publishing
Ekaterina V Nikitina	Member, Commission for Information and Publishing
Svetlana M Avdeeva	Chairman, Commission for Internet Resources and Youth Communication