

International Summer Language School "A MISSION OF PEACE"

The "MISSION OF PEACE" summer school is an educational not-for-profit multi-cultural program that the International Language School "Cosmopolitan" in Novosibirsk runs in Siberia, Russia, during the summer of 2002, with participation of volunteer teachers and international students from all over the world.

Unfortunately, most foreigners who come to Russia usually visit the two major cities of Moscow and St-Petersburg, and very few of them reach Siberia. Though this land is really beautiful and vast, and certainly worth seeing. I can assure you of an extremely warm welcome that all the international participants receive at the summer school here in Siberia, and believe it to be a very enriching experience for both sides, leading to a greater international understanding through this cross-cultural interaction.

The DATES of the summer school sessions for the year 2002 are as follows:

First Session: June 18th until July 2nd

Second Session: July 3rd until July 17th

Third Session: July 18th until August 1st

Fourth Session: August 2nd until August 16th

There is no limit of number of sessions attended. Of course participation in two and more sessions rather than just one gives a person more opportunities to experience the culture, learn the language, interact with more people, enjoy a larger excursion, cultural and socializing program.

The program of the summer school 2002, themed "A Mission of Peace", is aimed at creating opportunities in a diverse multicultural environment for the youngsters to improve their foreign language knowledge, learn about the ways to live their lives as peacemakers and acquire peacemaking skills, find creative expression and build relationships based on honesty, understanding and respect.

English, French, German and Russian classes are scheduled within the educational program of the Summer School with a variety of techniques applied, such as conversations grammar in use, language games, discussions, drama, etc.

You can choose to participate as either a volunteer teacher or an international student of the Russian course.

Each volunteer teacher conducts five 35-minute classes in the morning from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. daily except for excursion days. As far as the students at the summer school are concerned the usual age range is between 11 and 17 years old. At some sessions we also have younger students aged 9-10 years old, and adults who are also taking English classes. Usually we have quite a wide range of language levels: from Elementary to Advanced. In this respect I always ask prospective volunteer teachers about their preferences in terms of students' ages and language levels. On the first day of the summer session all the students are tested and divided into groups according to their language level. Every teacher is assigned to a classroom and groups rotate according to the daily schedule.

I should say that students at the summer school are highly motivated, well-behaved, willing to learn, creative, and eager to communicate and share their culture.

Within a variety of techniques/methods of language teaching that can be applied and aspects of a language, each teacher chooses to teach a course concentrating on a particular aspect, such as

conversations, grammar in use, language games, discussions, drama, computing, etc., or a combination of aspects. We are open to ideas, so feel free to suggest what you think would work best for you and the students.

As you know the contents of the classes are based on the Summer School theme "A Mission of Peace" and focus on visions and strategies for peace and justice. Each day within a two-week program will be devoted to a certain topic, for example 'Great Peacemakers', 'Our Most Important Hopes and Dreams, and Great Expectations', 'Peace and Environmental Poems', 'Peace Begins at Home', 'Democratic Leadership - The Way of the Future', 'World Cultural Heritage', etc. We are now working on the daily topical schedule of the program and I could email it to you as soon as it's done, if you are interested. This topical schedule would be very helpful in lesson planning and getting teaching materials each volunteer teacher is responsible for.

Apart from classes in the morning each volunteer teacher also supervises a creativity workshop in the afternoon. It's one hour work that involves some creative activity like dancing, singing, acting, performing, drawing, arts, web design, poetry, etc. A teacher chooses an activity according to his/her interests and skills. Usually a creativity workshop ends in a creative presentation on the last day of the session.

The program of the Summer School integrates language and peace education into daily activities which besides language classes also include creativity workshops, music and drama, games and contests, art and journaling, creative writing and drawing, cultural fair and the Summer School Olympics, interactive projects with the use of the Internet technologies. We plan to complete the Peace Register and submit it to the United Nations. The program is a great learning experience that encourages children to see with new eyes, as they explore artistic ways of knowing and ways of learning about peacemaking, expand their creative potential, and prepare to deal with the complexities and challenges of life in an interrelated world.

We also seek people worldwide (middle school through university STUDENTS, and ADULTS) who are interested in the Russian language and culture to join this international forum as International Students, gain in-depth understanding of international issues and bring a new depth of appreciation and knowledge home to their friends and communities.

We seek participation from as wide a geographic distribution of cultures and nations as possible, so that representatives of a broad range of nations could have an opportunity to share their hopes, dreams and concerns, express their thoughts and feelings, and make a lot of good friends to achieve a greater international understanding and promote a safer, saner world.

The course of the Russian language and culture is provided for our international students and volunteer teachers and includes language studies as well as Russian culture, history and society:

- Intensive Russian, a course in survival Russian which provides an intensive introduction to Russian for study group participants who have had little or no Russian language study
- Conversational proficiency (for intermediate and advanced students) with advanced Russian language practicums designed to increase fluency and sophistication in the use of Russian
- Russian Culture and Society, introduces students to Russian life and culture, its history and traditions.

Russia has always been a strange and fascinating place, with its mixture of globe-shaking politics and world-class culture. Our goal in Russian Studies is to prepare our students to observe and understand Russia, past and present. Students from their teens to their nineties from all walks of life immerse themselves in the language and culture of Russia through extensive daily instruction, tutoring by native speakers, and the dynamic cultural life of the school.

Volunteer teachers take 3 Russian classes per day, except excursion days. International students have 5 lessons of Russian per day, and one hour of creativity workshop per day, which involves some creative activity like dancing, singing, performing, drawing, arts, poetry, etc, related to the Russian culture.

A typical school day is scheduled as follows:

9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Classes (English/French/German/Russian language studies):
5 lessons 35 minutes each with 5-minute breaks
1:00 p.m. Lunch
2:00 p.m. Creativity Workshops
3:00 p.m. Sports/spa/swimming in the Obskoe sea
4:00 p.m. Snack
4:30 p.m. Russian classes for volunteer teachers (3 lessons 40 minutes each)
Sports/Activities for students
6:30 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Entertaining evening activity (show/performance/contest/party, etc.)
9:30 p.m. Disco.

Social outings (sauna, barbecue, shishkobobs, etc.) and a tour to the city of Novosibirsk are scheduled every week within the program. In addition to learning a foreign language in a diverse multicultural environment, the cultural and social programs are an extraordinarily enriching experience for both children and adults.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Roundtrip airfare to Novosibirsk.
- Obtaining the Russian visa and visa fees.
- Medical insurance.
- Participation fee, which covers accommodation, meals, etc.

1. VOLUNTEER TEACHER'S Participation fees:

- two-week program: \$295
- four-week program: \$560
- six-week program: \$820
- eight-week program: \$1075

2. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S Participation fees:

- two-week program: \$460
- four-week program: \$890
- six-week program: \$1310
- eight-week program: \$1720

(Prices are given in American dollars).

PROGRAM FEATURES (covered by the Participation fee):

- Accommodation and full board (3 meals a day + a snack) in a summer school facility which is situated in a picturesque suburban area of the major Siberian city of Novosibirsk, on the Obskoe Sea shore, and provides rooms, classrooms, nice recreational, sports, and spa facilities.

- 5 classes of Russian daily for international students, 3 classes of Russian daily for volunteer teachers, classes are taught by well-educated native speakers trained to teach foreigners.
- Exciting cultural and recreational program: contests and competitions, quizzes, shows, performances, disco, etc.
- Sports: soccer, basketball, volleyball, swimming.
- Socializing: meetings in local communities, outings, barbecue, traditional Russian sauna, field trips.
- Excursion program: (every two weeks) one whole-day guided tour of the largest Siberian city of Novosibirsk (museums, galleries, parks, the zoo), a boat tour on the Ob River.
- Transportation from/to the local airport in Novosibirsk.

Airfare, visa fee, medical insurance, pocket money are not included in the participation fee and should also be paid by international participants. So in terms of the overall cost of the program, it depends, first, on how long one would like to stay at the summer school. Second, how much one would have to pay for the airfare which varies depending on the itinerary and the airline and I suggest you check on that with a travel agent. Third, visa fee depends on how many days in advance one applies for it, the earlier you apply the more time is left for processing, the less the fee is. I am sure that you can get the detailed information on the visa application process including visa application and fees on the Russian Embassy web site.

Of course we realize that this program involves large financial investments of the foreign participants in terms of the airfare and the participation fee with no compensation on our end. You should understand that this is a non-profit self-supported project, and the participation fee goes to cover the expenses on accommodation, meals, excursions, local transportation, tuition, cultural program, etc. It's still much less expensive than a regular tour with a travel agency would cost, but provides much more opportunities to experience the culture, learn the language, interact with people, share professional knowledge and spiritual values, etc.

We believe it is essential for young people to develop a deeper awareness of their role as citizens of the world through direct experience in other cultures and languages, and acquire global skills, knowledge and attitudes, needed to live effectively in the world characterized by ethnic diversity, cultural pluralism and interdependence.

We highly appreciate the valuable gift that all the international participants make with their contribution to our program, and always see that everyone is fully satisfied and pleased with the visit. I could give you the email contacts of this past summer participants and I'm sure they will be happy to share their good memories with you if you get in touch with them. Please let me know if you'd like this. You can also visit the web site created by one of our volunteer teachers of the summer 2001 program, the link is <http://www.borovoe.com/>

The 1.5-million Novosibirsk is the third largest city of Russia (after Moscow and St.Petersburg) and the chief city of Siberia. Being the cultural, scientific and educational center of Siberia, surrounded by picturesque wooded and field areas, Novosibirsk is the best place for learning the Russian culture focusing on the importance of complete linguistic and cultural immersion, and provides incredible opportunities for experiencing the hospitality and cordiality Siberians are famed for.

You can also join the "PEACE THROUGH TOURISM" program of the Summer School by ordering one of the offered excursion packages that include trips to Moscow, St. Petersburg,

Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, Lake Baikal, the Altai Mountains, TransSiberian Railroad. All the details and tour descriptions are available at one's request.

To sign up for the summer school, I ask those who definitely decide to participate in the program, to fill out the application form and email it to me along with the attached resume, a photo and 3 letters of recommendation. Please let me know if you are interested in receiving the application form and I will email it to you right away.

Please let me know if there is anything in particular you'd like to learn about the program, I'll be happy to answer your questions.

I look forward to hearing from you and remain hopeful that we could establish a worthwhile co-operation. For further correspondence please use this current email address: cosmopolitan@online.nsk.su

Regards,

Natasha Bodrova,
Director of International Language School "Cosmopolitan",
Novosibirsk, Russia
cosmopolitan@online.nsk.su