

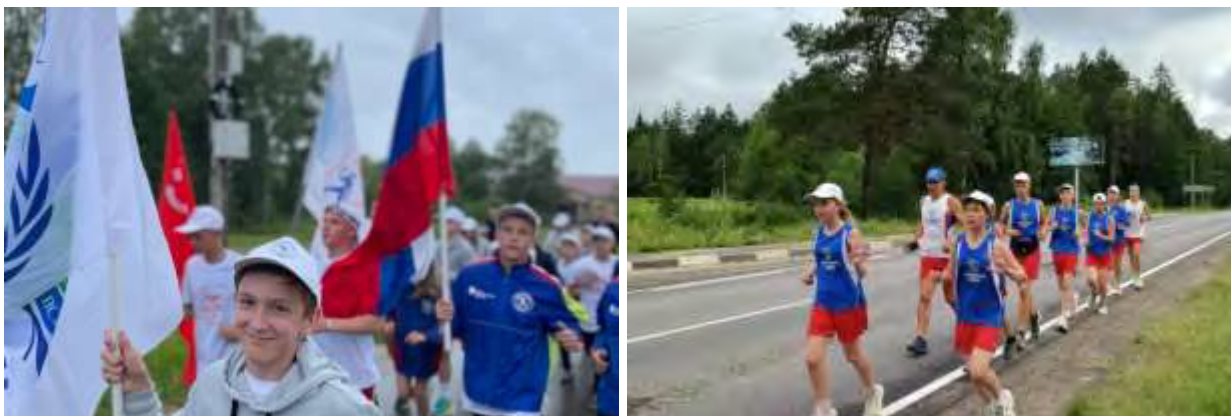
UPF Russia: Russia Peace Road Events Blends Sport and Culture

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Moscow, Russia - This summer, UPF-Russia held two significant Peace Road events; one spanned 12 cities, and the other led to landmarks in the life of the famous Russian writer, Anton Chekhov.

This year's Peace Road marathon brought together 30 participants from 11 regions of Russia, joined by around 500 volunteers along the route in various cities, and attracted over 100,000 online views.



On June 12, 2025, the marathon was launched from the Kremlin walls in Moscow. Over the course of 10 days, young participants and their mentors ran nearly 800 kilometers through 12 cities, concluding their journey in Bryansk on June 22. Two young participants traveled all the way from Vladivostok to take part.

Mr. Dmitry Samko, chairman of UPF-Moscow, joined the runners throughout the marathon and actively supported the project's media and communications efforts. Thanks to his involvement, the Supermarathon received widespread coverage both on social media and in local news outlets, significantly expanding its reach and public visibility.

The strength of this project lies in collaboration with ambassadors for peace and dedicated partners. It is this spirit of cooperation that made organizing such a meaningful Supermarathon possible.

On July 12 - 13, UPF held a Peace Road project in Moscow dedicated to the 165th anniversary of the birth of Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, one of Russia's greatest writers and playwrights. He is well known for his short stories and plays, including *The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *The Cherry Orchard*. Chekhov is celebrated around the world for his deep psychological insight, humanism, and subtle sense of humor.

This special route was called "The Chekhov Path" and combined two main elements: an exploration of the literary legacy of Chekhov and a journey following in his footsteps, by bicycle.



On the first day, participants gathered at the A.P. Chekhov House-Museum on Sadovaya-Kudrinskaya Street in Moscow. This is the only remaining house in the city where Chekhov actually lived and worked, from 1886 to 1890. The guided tour immersed visitors in the atmosphere of the time, showcasing personal documents, household items, and photographs related to the writer's life. A particularly heartwarming aspect of the event was the participation of families with children, helping to pass on this cultural journey not just across cities, but across generations.



On July 13, the second day of the project took on a more athletic format. A group of cyclists rode approximately 30 kilometers through the Chekhov District of the Moscow Region. This wasn't just a bike ride, it was a meaningful journey to an important cultural landmark: the Melikhovo Museum-Reserve, where Chekhov lived from 1892 to 1899.

In Melikhovo, participants enjoyed a tour of the historic estate. It was especially symbolic that the main house, where the Chekhov family lived, had just reopened after restoration. This was where Anton Chekhov not only resided and cared for local villagers as a physician, but also created many of his key literary works, including the short stories Ward No. 6 and The House with the Mezzanine, and his famous play The Seagull. A highlight of the visit was the small garden cottage where The Seagull was written, a space of solitude and creativity, which Chekhov described as marking a major inner turning point in his life.

What made this project especially meaningful was the choice to reach Melikhovo not by car or bus, but by bicycle, despite the hot weather and a challenging route. This reflects the living spirit of the Peace Road: uniting physical effort and personal engagement with deep respect for culture and spiritual heritage.

More than just a visit to historic sites, the journey offered participants a chance to experience Chekhov's world firsthand, not in the stillness of a museum, but through movement, effort, joyful connection, and shared purpose.



The Peace Road continues to grow as a project that brings people together through movement, culture, and dialogue. Importantly, it's not only about remembering great figures of the past, but also about inspiring today's youth and families to live consciously, cherish their history, and believe in a peaceful future.

