



THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAINEERING AND CLIMBING FEDERATION
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

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Report

International Youth Rock Climbing Festival “Europe – Asia 2005” Ekaterinburg. Urals. Russia.

International Youth Rock Climbing Festival “Europe – Asia 2005” was held in the Urals in July 15-29 2005.

It was organised under the aegis of the Youth Commission of UIAA, the Department of Sports, Tourism and physical culture development of the Ekaterinburg Administration, Children’s School of the Olympic Reserve of Mountain kinds of sports.

Purposes of the Festival

- popularisation of rock climbing on the natural relief as a powerful means of physical and ecological upbringing of young people, popularisation through the organisation of the “fiest for everybody”;
- popularisation of the ideas of the YC UIAA and GYS among Russian youth;
- diffusing the UIAA safety standards during rock climbing;
- the development of contacts among young people of different countries; upbringing of the tolerance towards the culture of other countries; language practice; cultural exchange;
- strengthening of the authority of Ekaterinburg as one of the centres of mountain sports in Russia;
- attracting the attention of city sports authorities to the development of rock climbing as one of the most emotional and powerful means of upbringing young people.

Participants

Among the participants of the festival there were 25 young people from different towns of Russia; 2 participants from Spain, 2 – from Austria, 1 girl – from USA. Some honoured guests took part in the ceremony of the solemn opening of the Festival. Among them the director of the Children’s School of Mountain kinds of Sports, honoured master of sport, the accentor on many Himalayan peaks Valery Pershin; the famous mountaineer awarded with “The Golden axe 2004” Alexey Bolotov. Complete quantity of participants took part in Festival was near 60 persons.

Results

1. The programme of the Festival is fully completed
2. The spirit of the Festival corresponds to the purposes and principles of YC UIAA – Global Youth Summit
3. 3 The participants approve the organisation and holding the Festival, they believe that such events are useful, they would like to take part in such events next year

4. The participants have got T-shirts with the symbols of YC UIAA and Global Youth Summit. This symbols also used on the transparent were shown on many TV channels both local and central.
5. The participants have cleaned 3 rock massifs in the outskirts of Ekaterinburg from the garbage – 3 lorries of garbage were taken away from these territories.

Problems

1. Foreign participants usually send their application forms too late (after the deadline). It makes very difficult for organisers to pass the invitations through the Department of visas and registrations in time.
2. We would like greatly appreciate if the representatives of YC UIAA were more active in informing their young people about youth camps and festivals in Russia.

The Meaning of the Festival

1. The participants approved the event in the form of a Festival.
2. The local authorities express more and more interest in this kind of events – our Festival was included in the calendar of town sports events of the year 2005.
3. Our young people have realised that it is interesting and useful to spend spare time in climbing, rafting and in other outdoor activities.
4. The exchange in the experience of safety standards was very useful.
5. Mass media were greatly interested in our Festival – it was shown on the central channels of Russia TV.

Opinions of the participants

Amanda (USA):

“What I liked most of all were people who took part in the festival, especially young Russians.

I have heard many times that the youngsters here have become wicked and lazy, that they have no interests except computers and money. And I was very glad to learn, that it is not true at all - young Russian people in the camp were friendly, clever, hardworking, and it was interesting to talk with them about their lives and interests.

All foreigners had very strong impressions about how concertedly was all the work in the camp organized. In America in such camps there are usually many strict rules about who must do this or that work and when, and people often get angry at each other, when something is done in the wrong way. In this camp there were very few such debates, but the work was done properly.

The participants of this festival didn't lose good temper when they faced difficulties like hard rain and tiredness. The Ural people seem to be both cheerful and hardy.”

Alvaro (Spain):

“It was the first travel around Russia which is a new country for me, quite different from Spain. I met a lot of good people. The nights with fire and good live music are very special. And of course climbing – it was great!

The thing I didn't like were mosquitoes – too many.”

Leader of Festival, master of sports
Vitaly Primerov