



Russia's Young Army Journalists

OE Watch Commentary: The current Russian leadership continues to enact policies and develop programs to strengthen the sinews of patriotism—especially among the country's youth. Since military service remains a key component in their patriotic formula, it was not surprising that the Yunarmiya or Youth Army organization would have a prominent display during the recent Armiya 2020 (Army 2020) exhibition at Patriot Park. An article in *Nezavisimoye Voennoye Obezreniye* (*Independent Military Review*) included an interview with the leader of the Young Army movement, and Hero of the Russian Federation, pilot-cosmonaut Roman Romanenko. A few of his remarks merit closer study.

The article begins by describing the Young Army display at the exhibition, “where children and their parents could examine military equipment, assemble and disassemble small arms, take a course in primary medical care, and try themselves in other competitions.” Romanenko points out that today, even though COVID-19 has presented challenges, “there are more than 700,000” children enrolled within the Young Army ranks. He describes some of the interactive exhibits of the Young Army display, stressing that “everything is appropriate and extremely exciting for visitors.”



The article highlights an exhibit called Young Correspondents, where “guests were clearly demonstrated the principle of work of modern mass media.” Children could become familiar with “a real television studio - a camera, a screen and even a prompter,” and try their hand at working as “a journalist, news anchor and operator.” Those who demonstrated particular talent were awarded with “prizes and gifts.” The article also describes a recently opened TV studio for Young Army members in Sevastopol, which has become “one of the most successful and requested projects,” and where “the videos of our young correspondents are gaining tens of thousands of views and positive comments.”

Understanding the importance of cultivating patriotism among Russian youth, the Kremlin leadership has developed tools like Patriot Park, the Armiya forum, and the Young Army movement. To ensure that the Kremlin's narrative remains fresh and convincing, it has also invested considerable resources in creating a class of new, young journalists to faithfully spread its message. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

“... In the space of “Young Correspondents,” the guests were clearly demonstrated the principle of work of modern mass media....”

Source: Irina Dronina, “Юнармия работает по принципу – есть спрос, будет предложение (Yunarmiya works according to the principle - there is demand, there will be supply),” *Nezavisimoye Voennoye Obezreniye*, 10 September 2020. https://nvo.ng.ru/realty/2020-09-10/3_1108_unarmiya.html

The Army 2020 Forum has become not only an exhibition of the achievements of the military-industrial complex, but also a place to demonstrate the work of the Ministry of Defense in military-patriotic education. For the first time in the history of the expo, the military department has deployed a whole thematic platform where children and their parents could examine military equipment, assemble and disassemble small arms, take a course in primary medical care, and try themselves in other competitions. The head of the General Staff of the Yunarmiya, Hero of the Russian Federation, pilot-cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, spoke with correspondent... Irina Dronina about how it was organized and what tasks were solved.”

Roman Yurievich, Yunarmiya has been participating in the International Military-Technical Forum since its inception in 2016. Do you always have something to show?

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The forum is an opportunity to show achievements in our work. And we have something to be proud of. The number of participants in the movement is growing: now there are more than 700,000....

Instead of booklets and leaflets from the last century, the All-Russian Children's and Youth Military-Patriotic Movement has created an interactive exhibition module, where everything is appropriate and extremely exciting for visitors.

In the space of “Young Correspondents,” the guests were clearly demonstrated the principle of work of modern mass media. Everything here is like in a real television studio - a camera, a screen and even a prompter. You can try yourself as a journalist, news anchor and operator. The most productive earn prizes and gifts.

The project of the School of Young Correspondents is also actively developing. You recently presented a studio in Sevastopol. What's next?

The TV studio, equipped for the young correspondents of the Youth Army, will become the central broadcasting point. The media center has been equipped with modern digital equipment, on which schoolchildren will be able to work as correspondents, operators, and program hosts. Not only teachers, but also students of the Sevastopol State University, who already have experience of working at the university television studio, will study with the children.

The junior school is one of the most successful and requested projects. The videos of our young correspondents are gaining tens of thousands of views and positive comments, and are also posted on many Russian media sites.