

GA (Girls in Action) /RA (Royal Ambassadors) 2017 International Mission Study: Russia



The mention of Russia may cause you to think about Moscow, the Kremlin or Red Square; but most likely not Muslims. But guess what? Muslims are actually one of the indigenous peoples of Russia, their roots lying deep in the isolated villages of the Caucasus region, the mountain range separating Europe and Asia.

Along with the indigenous people who are Muslims, there has been a rebirth of Muslim influence in Russian cities in the past 25 years, as the crumbling of the Berlin Wall changed the relationship between Russia and the Central Asian republics. Now migrant workers from the South come in unprecedented numbers to work in the large cities. In fact, Moscow's Muslim population has grown from 1 million to 2.5 million in the last few years, making it the largest Muslim city in Europe. The transitory life of the migrant has proven to be fertile soil for the hope of the Gospel, making this time in history a remarkable opportunity to share Christ. Christian workers are developing methods to come alongside the Muslims of Russia to give them a hope and a future. On Wednesday, Oct 11th our 1st – 5th grade GA's and RA's will explore Russia through the 2017 International Mission Study and learn how God is at work bringing Muslims to Himself.

Here is some important information for parents re: our Mission Study:

- Our Mission Study will be hosted by Patty Blanton at Pine Knoll Farms here in Appling. **Address:** 6001 Washington Rd Appling, GA 30802
- The International Mission Board will be present and will be filming our Mission Study this year. *(Please note that when you sign the enclosed*

permission form, you are giving permission for your child to attend the study and be filmed.)

One of the greatest needs of the people in Russia is simple kindness – caring friendships that lead to Jesus. Our study of Russia will begin with a ride on the **Kindness Trolley** (*This is a real trolley!*) where a tour guide will introduce the children to the country of Russia as they are transported to Pine Knoll Farms. The first Trolley will depart from Kiokee to Pine Knoll at 5:00 P.M. A second trolley ride to the farm will leave from Kiokee at 5:30 P.M.

- 5:00 and 5:30 P.M. may be super early for you to be here if you work! If you cannot have your child here by one of those times, please try to make arrangements with another GA/RA parent, a friend or a family member who can help you out with transportation.
- If you are unable to have your child ride the trolley, feel free to meet us at Pine Knoll. Even if you are running a little late, there will still be lots for your child to participate in once they arrive. So please come!
- Note: If space allows, parents are welcome to ride the trolley to Pine Knoll. If there is not enough space, you are welcome to drive your personal vehicle and meet us there. We encourage all parents to attend and be a part of the mission study!
- We will be sampling different foods that are common to Russia. Please make your child's GA or RA leader aware of any food allergies they may have.
- Please note that those who arrived on the 5:00 p.m. trolley ride will leave the farm at 7:00 p.m. and return to Kiokee at 7:15 p.m. Those who rode the 5:30 p.m. trolley will leave the farm at 7:30 p.m. and arrive back at Kiokee at 7:45 p.m.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Ms. Patty Blanton for planning and hosting the International Mission Study again this year! Through Patty's efforts and generosity, the greatness of God and the importance of missions will be declared to our children on Oct. 11th. We hope you will mark this date on your calendar and make plans for your child to be a part.

If you have questions regarding the International Mission Study, please feel free to contact our Children's Director (sherry@kiokee.org or call 706-541-1086) or speak with one of our GA / RA Leaders.

Declaring His Greatness,
Sherry Matherly
Director of Children's Ministries