



You Ain't Done Nothing - Performed at Camp Red Star

PEOPLES SCHOOL FOR MARXIST-LENINIST STUDIES™



What is the League of Young Communists (LYC)?

PSMLS 12/2/25



What we'll be learning today:

- What are the communist youth leagues and why are they needed?
- Work done by LYC and its predecessors
- Youth camps of the past and present



What Are Communist Youth Leagues?



Stalin on Youth Leagues

Formally speaking, the Young Communist League is a non-Party organisation. But it is at the same time a communist organisation. This means that the Young Communist League, while it is formally a non-Party organisation of workers and peasants, must, at the same time, work under the guidance of the Party. The task is to ensure that the youth have confidence in our Party, to ensure that the Young Communist League is guided by our Party.



Young Workers League
Logo (Founded 1922)



Stalin on Youth Leagues cont.

The Young Communist Leaguer must remember that the principal and most important thing is to ensure the guidance of the Party in all the work of the Young Communist League. The Young Communist Leaguer must remember that without such guidance, the Young Communist League will be unable to perform its fundamental task, namely, to educate the worker youth in the spirit of the dictatorship of the proletariat and of Communism.



Young Pioneer poster



*From The Young Communist League of America. Resolution
Adopted by the 2nd Convention of the United Communist
Party, Kingston, NY — January 1921.*

I. General Condition of the Proletarian Youth.

Under the capitalist system of society, the proletarian youth is subject to every form of economic exploitation and intellectual slavery to which the entire working class is subjected. The lot of the young people is an especially hard one on account of their defenseless position during the critical years of physical and mental development. Because of their immaturity, capitalist exploiters find among them a ready recruiting field of the various military institutions to be used in defense of the existing regime, and for creating White Guards to throttle the coming revolution.



Army Recruiters Preying on High Schoolers



The Need for the LYC

II. The Communist Movement Among the Youth.

In order to free the working class youth from this intolerable situation, an independent organization, to be known as the League of Young Communists shall be organized. Recognizing that the emancipation of the youthful workers is impossible without that of the working class as a whole, this organization (LYC) is an integral part of the worldwide Communist movement, for the Communist youth are a part — an essential party — of the revolutionary movement.





Functions of the LYC

III. Mission of the Young Communist League.

The mission of the Young Communist League is a special one, in that: 1. Its particular function is the Communist training of the young proletariat. 2. Its organization embraces a field of education that cannot be reached through regular party channels. 3. The young Communists will be the bearers of the Communist system of society.





Functions of the LYC Cont.

The development of the Communist movement offers every evidence that only an independent organization of the young people can work successfully. Owing to the particular psychology of young people, a special organization, under the general supervision and direction of the Party, is required. The League of Young Communists can carry on training and education among youth indifferent to our ideas, in a manner impossible within the strict jurisdiction of the Party organization itself, and can gradually direct them to the Communist movement.





Relationship between the Party and the Youth League

IV. Duties of the Party Towards the Young Communist League.

The Party shall recognize the importance of a young people's movement. It is the duty of the Party to prepare them with all the means at its disposal. An intensive cooperation between both organizations is an absolute necessity. A definite program of action for the Party in this respect shall be: 1. Immediately to prepare for the organization and furtherance of the League of Young Communists of America. (a) By issuing and distributing the Manifests, Also by issuing bulletins and leaflets dealing in particular with questions of national and international policy of the Young Communist League.



Relationship between the Party and the Youth League cont.

(b) By organizing Communist groups among the independent organizations where control is not possible immediately, and making every effort to gain control. 2. Where no units of the League are in existence, the Party shall make every effort to form them. 3. The Party shall give every assistance to the League by: (I) Affording it financial assistance whenever necessary. (II) Furnishing it with lectures, speakers, and teachers. (III) By allotting it space in the official Party organs.

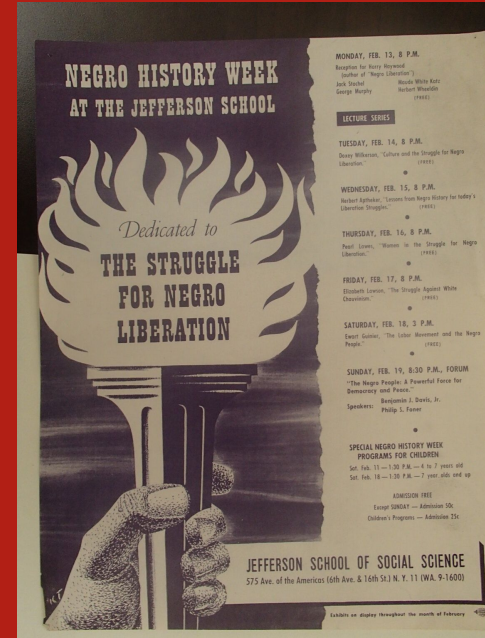


Lenin speaking at 3rd Convention of Russian Communist Youth Union



Relationship between the Party and the Youth League cont.

(IV) By assisting it to issue legal and illegal leaflets. (V) By having all Party organizers devote a portion of their time to organizing and developing units of the League in their territory. (VI) By directing their educational work under the immediate special supervision of the Party educational committees. 4. An organization shall be formed to carry on the legal work of the League of Young Communists. It shall provide education, recreational, and social facilities. 5. The Party shall interchange representatives with the League and watch its every move and development



Flyer for Jefferson School of Social Science



Organizational Independence of LYC

As was stated above, the Communist Youth Leagues must be organizationally independent to the Party.

This is in part because in order to spread confidence of the Party among the youth, organizers must be able to relate to the youth. Older adults having decades of gap in age, do not readily relate to the moods, culture, and maturity of the youth.

The LYC must operate independently also since the youth league provides a training ground where members can organize in a similar manner to the Party while having the opportunity to make and learn from their own mistakes. Only this way can the next generation of Party leaders be cultivated.





Organizational Independence of LYC

By organizational independence, it means that the LYC has its own cells (units), its own leading bodies such as a Congress; Central Committee; and Politburo, as well as their own publication (Red Patriot).

Organizational Independence does not mean that the LYC acts as a completely separate entity however. The LYC still abides by the ideology of the Party and is subject to the criticism by Party leaders. In this way, the Party serves to provide guidance in the development of the Communist Youth.

At all LYC meetings and events, there is at least one Party representative present to observe and report the activities of the LYC to Party leadership. Currently, most Party leadership observes the activities.

In general, youth are more energetic and fiery. While this attribute is useful when directed, without proper guidance, it can, and many times, does lead to impulsive, individualistic behavior that can lead to adventurism and factionalism. This is why the LYC leads itself under the close guidance of the Party.



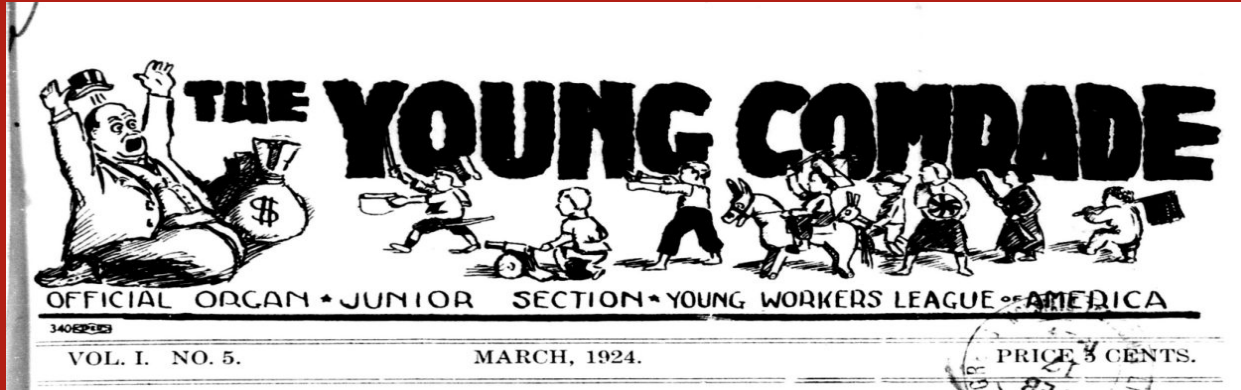
Discussion



Accomplishments of Communist Youth Groups



Communist Youth Publications (1923-1930)



“A working
class magazine
for working
class children”

Junior Section,
Young Workers
League of
America

(1923 to 1930)





The Young Comrade No. 1 (1923)

The League of Young Communists Publication “The Young Comrade” served to inform, connect and inspire young communists. The Masthead is shown on the previous slide and the first article of Vol. 1, No. 1, (see right) follows. This initial entry summarizes the purpose and style of the LYC’s youth publication.

DEAR LITTLE COMRADE:

This is the first number of your magazine, THE YOUNG COMRADE. It is going to be *your* magazine completely. We want you to write stories and poems for it, and draw pictures and cartoons to illustrate its pages. We want you to know that the paper is yours because it will be written and pictured by you only.

What kind of a magazine is it going to be, you will want to know. Well, it will be given out by the *Junior Section* of the *Young Workers League of America*. The *Junior Section* is made up of young boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14. The *Junior Section* already has branches in many cities, such as Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles. What makes it different from any other junior organization is that it is made up of the children of the WORKERS. It will show the children of these workers that while the children of the rich are living in the most beautiful homes, the children of the workers are forced to live in some tenement house, where the air stinks and is unhealthy, and where the rooms are so small that the whole family is very often crowded into tiny uncomfortable rooms. The *Junior Section* will show that while rich men's children have all the most luxurious foods and shelter and clothing, working-class children must go hungry many times and never have the clothes that they should have if they are to be comfortable during the year.





The Young Comrade No. 1 (1923)

- The Young Comrade offered salient, age appropriate content for working class children.
- Articles identifying capitalism's role and giving context to aspects of class struggle, labor issues, and exploitation, from the school age youth perspective.

When it is summer time, the rich children go to the seashore for the season so as to keep cool. But you, working children, must stay in the city, where it is hot and sticky. When winter comes around, the rich children wear their furs and other warm clothes if they stay up North, or they go to some sunny spot in the South. But you have to shiver with cold because your father does

not get enough money from his boss to buy you furs and send you to a winter resting place.

THE YOUNG COMRADE wants to show you these things, and to explain to you how these bad and unequal things came about, why they are, and how to do away with them. We do not want you to have your head filled with fairy tales about how good this country is, because it is not a good country for the workers and their families, but only for the bosses. Your



teacher and the newspapers always tell you that this is the best and most wonderful country in the world. But they do not tell you that in this country thousands of little children are made to work ten and eleven and twelve hours a day in beet fields, where the sun is so hot that pretty soon the children's faces become almost black, and the work does not permit them to grow up like real children should. Neither do they tell you how children are forced to work in dark coal mines digging coal.

Now, this only happens to the children of the workers, but not to the children of the rich. You could never find *them* on the streets selling papers or shining shoes; you could never find *them* in the burning

beet and cotton fields or in the dark, wet, coal mines; nor could they be found in any of the other places where workers' children are forced to slave because their parents' boss does not pay enough wages to make them able to buy all the food and clothing and pay all the rent they must pay.



The Young Comrade No. 1 (1923)

And when your teacher and the boss's newspapers tell you about the good and wonderful men that are at the head of the government, do they ever tell you that it took many, many years before the Congress would pass a law to stop the little children from selling their bodies to bosses? (Continued on next page)

- Installs Class Consciousness
- Suggests questions of mainstream education
- Inspires submissions and contributions from young subscribers
- Teaches Socialist History and Economics

[2]

THE YOUNG COMRADE

November, 1923

ses? No, they do not. And they say nothing about the fact that after people having worked for years to get this fair law passed, it was declared unconstitutional by the judges who make up the American Supreme Court (the highest and most important court in the country). That is, they said that the law to stop children from working was against the constitution. Now, what kind of a great and glorious constitution have we that does not allow a law to pass that will save the lives and health of hundreds of thousands of children?

You see, the law is made for the rich people only. The poor people, the working men and the women always get the worst of it. Little comrades, little children of the workers, do you think that it is right to have a law that says money is more important than the lives and health of little children? Don't you think that little children should grow up strong and healthy and rosy-cheeked? Is it right to have a law and a constitution that will not let them grow up like human beings?

We do not think it is right, and we feel sure that you do not think so either. That is why we are going to print *THE YOUNG COMRADE*. It is going to stand for a government where there are no rich and no poor, but only human beings. Where children shall enjoy life and not have to be like slaves. We want to explain to you how we intend to do this. To learn these things you must become a member of the *Junior Section* of the *Young Workers League*. They have hikes and socials and games

and talks. There is no teacher to stand over you with a hard ruler to hit you with, but they are all "regular fellows" who consider you as their friends, their brothers and sisters, *THEIR COMRADES*, and they want you to feel the same way. This magazine is going to be your paper, as we said before. Write for it and draw for it. Everything will be printed. Spread this magazine among your friends and tell them to come with you and join the *Junior Section*. Let us hear from you immediately so that you may know where a branch meets in your city or town.

You should write to

Nat Kaplan, National Director, Junior Groups,
1009 N. State St., Room 214, Chicago, Ill.





The Young Comrade Promotes Solidarity, Anti-War Organizing

FORMING A JUNIOR GROUP IN ROCK, MICHIGAN.

Rock, Michigan.

Dear Comrades:—

I had been reading The Young Comrade and I tell you it is one of the best papers. I am trying to get a junior section. There are six members already and here are their names. First is the leader Vilho Uusitalo, Sylvi Uusitalo, Vaino Hill, Bertha Sandback, Vieno and Vailto Warmanen. I am trying to get some more and we are going to have a picnic. We have been fighting much against the public schools. My teacher said I am very blind because I do not go to the church. And she tells me that the people in Russia are so blind that there is not so blind people no place. The members are from 9 to 12 years old. But I said that you do not know a bit of the Russian people. Oh, boy, she was mad and put me two hours after school and tried to make me give up. But she could not.

In Christmas time she went away and said that she is not going to teach communists. Now the new teacher has not been talking nothing.

I would order The Young Comrade for a year, but I have not got any money now.

By Vilho Uusitalo, age 12.

Read The Young Comrade, and get your friends to do the same.

Anyone who doesn't work shouldn't eat. Tell that to the capitalists.

In these articles:
LYC members discuss the organizing a neighborhood cell, and describe efforts and the rationale for youth lead critique and counter-reactionary response to the para-military Boy Scouts organization.

WHY WE ARE AGAINST THE BOY SCOUTS.

By THELMA KAHN.

ONE Sunday, our Junior class was discussing the Boy Scout organization and capitalism. So I stood up and told them that capitalism does not only train the Boy Scouts to shoot and use a rifle for its own interest but to shoot down his own father and brothers when there is a strike. For instance, if there were 100,000,000 people in the United States and they would make 600,000,000 suits or other necessity of life, there would be 500,000,000 left over. Well, what is capitalism going to do. The capitalists go over to China or some other land and try to sell their suits there. As he goes along the streets they see England selling suits also. And a dispute follows. Then the capitalist sends his soldiers, who are now grown-up Boy Scouts, to fight England. Millions of them get killed, and what for? Just so that the capitalist can sell their too many suits to the people. The Boy Scouts also learn how to stick people on the end of their rifles and other ignorant things.

Another way they make you fight for them is to say, as they said in the World War, "The terrible Huns are nailing children to the walls and cutting them to millions of pieces." Next time if we are smart enough we will say, "The Huns are doing no such thing; they are our brothers and we will not kill them."

And so the struggle goes on, and if you want to grow up as men and women who fight for the **workers** because they **are** workers, join the Junior Section of the Young Workers League instead of the Boy Scouts and Campfire Girls' organizations.



The Young Comrade becomes Young Pioneer (1929)



In February 1929, Young Comrade became the “Young Pioneer”

YOUNG PIONEER

11

In June the
“YOUNG PIONEER”
Is **6 Yrs. Old**

EVERY PIONEER UNIT!

EVERY YOUNG PIONEER READER!

EVERY SYMPATHIZER, YOUNG OR OLD!

SEND GREETINGS!

25 cents per name for a grown-up.

10 cents per name for a child

50 cents greeting for Pioneer Unit

\$1.00 per inch for organizations

If on the pink slip on the first page
of your paper you find the number
4-29 or earlier, your sub has expired.
Send in sub

HEY — HEY — COMRADES!

We haven't gotten 3,000 subs yet.

Only 1200 new subs up to now!

SO KEEP UP THE SUB-GETTING

Young Pioneer
43 East 125th Street,
New York City

Name

Address

City

State

Are you a subscriber now?



Workers' Children Policy Reform Efforts

FREE FOOD AND CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN OF JOBLESS!

Workers' Children! Winter is here! It is getting cold and windy. We must have food and warm clothes to wear. But how can we get enough food and clothes? Our parents are out of work! There is no work for them, and therefore we have nothing to eat. 9 million workers in the U. S. are walking the streets, looking for work.

All day long the workers stand on the breadlines, shivering from the cold. The warehouses are full of clothes, but they belong to the bosses, and not to the workers.

Millions of dollars worth of food is stored up, but the workers and their children have nothing to eat.

Merry Christmas—For Whom?

The teachers in school tell us all about how happy we should be at this time of the year. Christmas is coming! A new year is near. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! This is what the teachers and the newspapers tell us.

Merry Christmas, for whom? It's for the rich children, not for the workers and farm-



HARRY EISMAN
The Young Pioneer who was jailed for 6 years, and is now in workers' Russia.



Photo by Ewing Galloway

ers' children! The rich children don't have to worry about not having enough to eat. Their fathers made all their money from robbing the workers, our parents!

The rich children will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! They want plenty to eat and warm clothes to wear.

But this Christmas won't be very merry for us workers' children! All the nice toys and presents that you see in the store windows are not for us! Our parents can't afford to pay for them. We won't have any Christmas trees and parties!

We Have No Food to Eat

Millions of workers' children go to school every day without breakfast. They walk to school with torn clothes and shoes.

In many parts of the country, there is snow on the ground. Winter, with its freezing cold, is upon us. The workers are facing starvation!

But the unemployed workers are not going to starve! They are going to fight! This winter, the workers are going to put up a

stiff fight against the bosses, who cause them all this misery!

The Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League are organizing the workers, both unemployed and employed! The workers are going to present the Workers' Social Insurance Bill to Congress this winter. They are going to force the bosses' government to support the unemployed workers and their children!

We Must Help Our Parents

Are we workers' children going to starve this winter, or are we going to help our parents fight for the right to live? We must join our parents in fighting for unemployment relief and insurance! Then we won't have to be so afraid of starving!

We must fight for free food, free fare, and free school supplies! Workers Children! Don't starve this winter. Fight for FREE FOOD AND CLOTH-

ING FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE UNEMPLOYED.



A child worker, his father out of work, has no place to sleep.

Working Class Children Organize!

Contribute to the Communist Party and Trade Union Unity League presenting the Workers' Social Insurance Bill submitted in the winter of 1930.

"This bill, which the Communist Party wrote in 1930, was introduced in Congress three times, in 1934, '35, and '36, as an alternative to the far more conservative Social Security Act. Its socialistic nature ensured that it never had any chance of becoming law, but it also enabled it to become enormously popular among Americans across the country, who were more enthusiastic about radical social democracy than has often been appreciated. Millions of people belonging to labor unions, unemployment organizations, left-wing political parties, church groups, women's groups, and immigrant societies participated in the movement to get the bill enacted as law."

(ARTICLE SOURCE: Wright, Chris (2018) "Popular Radicalism in the 1930s: The History of the Workers' Unemployment Insurance Bill," Class, Race and Corporate Power: Vol. 6: Iss. 1, Article 4.)

Henry Winston on the Young Communist League



In this interview, Henry Winston recounts his experiences attending a Young Communist League training school. Winston recognizes that the youth will naturally approach the task of building socialism with a different perspective than the generations that came before them. Because of this, he argues, it is critical to emphasize the importance of instilling a desire to learn the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism in young Communists.



Slide Title



Generally this side is reserved for media such as videos and images



Slide Title



Discussion



Communist Camps for the Youth



The Pioneer Movement

Historically organizations for children which were operated by a communist party, were seen as being a part of the Pioneer Movement. Typically children would enter into one of these organizations in elementary school and continue until adolescence. The adolescents would then typically join the Young Communist League. Prior to the fall of the Soviet Union, there was wide cooperation between Pioneer and similar movements of about 30 countries, all of which were coordinated by the International Committee of Children's and Adolescents' Movements founded in 1958, with headquarters in Budapest, Hungary. Between 1918 and 1920, the All-Russian Congresses of the Russian Union of the Communist Youth (Komsomol) decided to replace the Scout movement, which had begun under the Czar and which had aligned itself with the Whites in the Civil War following the Bolshevik revolution, with an organization of the communist type for Soviet children and adolescents. This organization would resemble the Scout movement in its form but properly educate children with Communist teachings, to evince previous capitalist ideologies of private ownership and individualism.



Emblem of the Soviet Pioneer Organization with a silhouette of Vladimir Lenin and the inscription Always prepared!



An Alternative to Capitalist “Boy-Scoutism”



Krupskaya and Lenin, 1922

On behalf of the Soviet Council of People's Commissars, Nadezhda Krupskaya (Vladimir Lenin's wife and the People's Commissar of State for Education) was one of the main contributors to the cause of the Pioneer movement. In 1922, she wrote an essay called "Russian Union of the Communist Youth and boy-Scoutism." However, it was the remaining scoutmasters themselves who supported the Komsomol and the Red Army, who introduced the name "Pioneer" to it and convinced the Komsomol to adapt the Scout symbols and rituals. The first Pioneer organization was founded in Soviet Russia in 1922. Later, similar organizations were founded in the countries of the Eastern Bloc and other Communist states.



Teaching Collectivism and Communist Principles

The Pioneer movement was modelled in many aspects on the Scout movement. The two movements share some principles like preparedness and promotion of sports and outdoor skills. The motto Always prepared! was adopted by the pioneer movement from the Scout Motto. A member of the movement is known as a Pioneer, with the name stemming from the pioneering activity in Scouting. A red neckerchief – is the traditional item of clothing worn by a pioneer. This tradition was adapted from the Scout uniform.

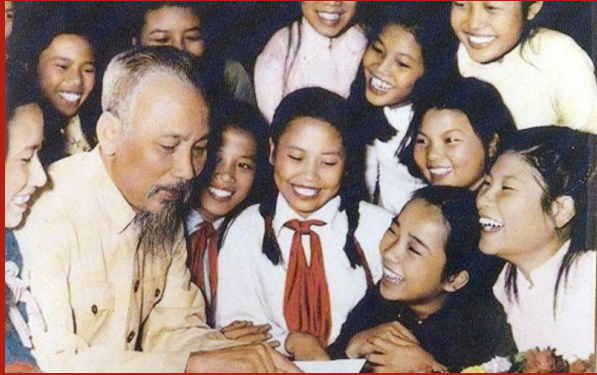
But there are some distinct differences between the two movements. Most notably, the Scout movement receives government funding but does not overtly claim to evince the ideologies of the political economy. In contrast, the Pioneer movement is fully subsidized by the government and does make overt connections to the political economy. Thus, it teaches communist principles, including community-oriented and needs-based equal-pay labouring for the larger collective.



Ceremony of Admission to the Pioneers, 1969



A Young Pioneer Organization for Every Communist Nation



Ho Chi Minh Meeting With the
Young Pioneers in Vietnam

Pioneer movements have existed and still exist in countries where the Communist Party is in power as well as in some countries where the Communist Party is in opposition, if the party is large enough to support a children's organization. In countries governed by Communist Parties, membership of the pioneer movement is officially optional. However, membership provides many benefits, so the vast majority of children typically join the movement (although at different ages). During the existence of the Soviet Union, thousands of Young Pioneer camps and Young Pioneer Palaces were built exclusively for Young Pioneers, which were free of charge, sponsored by the government and trade unions. There were many newspapers and magazines published for Young Pioneers in millions of copies. A national pioneer organization is often named after a famous party member that is considered a suitable role model for young communists, such as Vladimir Lenin in the Soviet Union, Enver Hoxha in Albania, Georgi Dimitrov in Bulgaria, José Martí in Cuba, Ernst Thälmann in East Germany, Damdin Sükhbaatar in Mongolia, and Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam.



The Young Pioneer Camp Phenomena

The Young Pioneer camps of the Soviet Union were the place of vacation for children from the Young Pioneer organization of the Soviet Union during summer and winter holidays. The first All-Union Young Pioneer camp, Artek was formed on June 16, 1925. The Young Pioneer camp phenomenon grew in popularity and in 1973 approximately forty thousand Young Pioneer camps existed in the USSR. In that year, approximately 9,300,000 children had vacations in these camps. There were different types of camps: sanitation camps, sports camps, tourist camps, thematic camps (for young technicians, young naturalists, young geologists and children of other potential careers). Generally speaking if parents wanted their child or children to go to one of these Young Pioneer camps, they had to pay a fee to apply for accommodation in the camp. However, typically the state organization where the parent worked "sponsored" the child by allotting the worker's child a place in the camp free of charge to the parent or parents as an incident to the parent's employment.



'Every morning, we were woken by a bugle and hurriedly changed into our gym attire for the exercise session' - A Former Young Pioneer Reminisces About Group Exercises Like Those Seen in This Photo



The First Young Pioneer Camp: A Legacy of the USSR



Pedagogy refers to the academic study of teaching methods. Artek (pictured above) similarly to other Young Pioneer Camps was a school as well as a vacation destination and training ground.

Artek (Russian: А́рте́к) still exists as an international children's center on the Black Sea in the town of Gurzuf located on the Crimean Peninsula, near Ayu-Dag. It was established in 1925 as the V. I. Lenin All-Union Pioneer Camp.

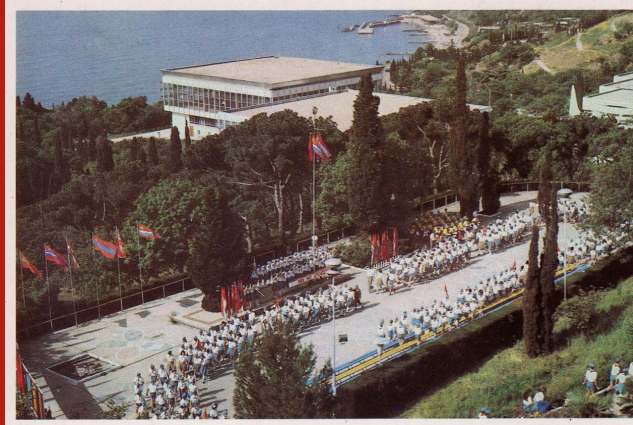
Artek was considered to be a privilege for Soviet children during its existence, as well as for children from other communist countries. During its heyday, 27,000 children a year vacationed at Artek. Between 1925 and 1969 the camp hosted 300,000 children including more than 13,000 children from 70 foreign countries. After the breaking up of the Young Pioneers in 1991 its prestige declined, though it remained a popular vacation destination. Traditionally Artek provided a base (known as a School of Pedagogues-Organizers) for hands-on training of students of pedagogical schools. This tradition has been continued today and the camp is known as the Humanitarian Institute 'Artek'. In 2005 students from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Kazakhstan were trained there.



Artek From the Soviet Perspective

From a postcard folder and notes, distributed by the Soviet Union to advertise camp Artek, circa 1985:

Traditionally, the Young Pioneers' day starts with a camp lineup and the hoisting of the flag in each of the Artek camps. Each shift begins with a ceremonial parade before the Camp's Banner, the state flag of the USSR. As the early sunrays light up the top of Mount Ayudag, the camp awakens to the soft rustle of the wind in the pines and cypresses, the murmur of the waves and the cheerful call of the bugle. When the morning exercises start, the whole of Artek becomes a gigantic stadium. Artek means sunshine, the sea and a few kilometers of beaches. When leaving the camp, each boy and girl is sure to take home as a souvenir a few pretty pebbles worn smooth by the gentle waves of the warm sea. Each of the camps has a charm of its own.





Artek From the Soviet Perspective Cont.

Among the duties of the children at Artek is serving meals and clearing away in the canteens, cleaning up the territory, taking care of the trees and flowers in the parks, and keeping the beaches clean and in order. The National Communist Subbotnik (A Saturday when voluntary unpaid work is done collectively) is Artek's greatest working holiday. On that April day the children at Artek, just like other people all over the country, contribute to the nation-wide collective effort. Artek's children enjoy going on hikes to Mount Ayu-Dag. The hikers have an opportunity to test their endurance and participate in all kinds of open-air activities. The route is specially chosen so that they can see some of the most beautiful sights in the Crimea. The children look forward to singing around the bonfire in the evening.





Artek From the Soviet Perspective Cont.

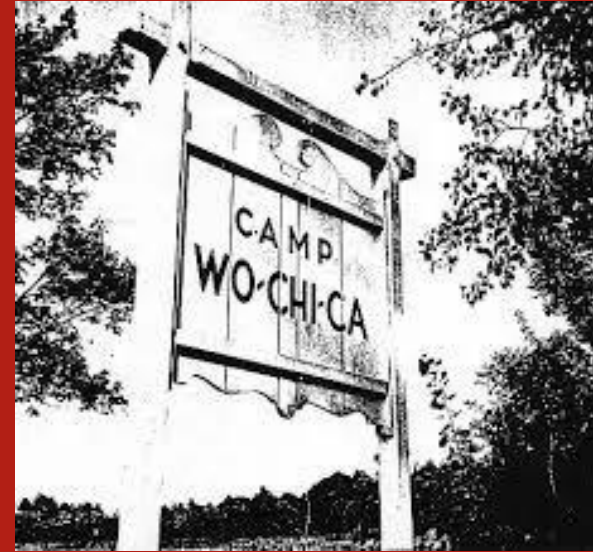
When at Artek you can see the Exhibition of Model Ships, launch a glider you have made with your own hands, and visit the Space Exhibition, which was set up with the participation of Yuri Gagarin, the pioneer of space flight. The classes at Artek's school start on September 1. The school has large classrooms and laboratories and numerous visual aids. Textbooks are available in the language of all the constituent republics of the USSR. Among the things the children take home from Artek with them is the traditional herbarium, a collection of minerals and photographs of beauty spots in Artek and the rest of the Crimea. Each delegation of foreign children has its own National Day. It is a festival when children perform their national dances and songs and tell their friends about democratic children's organizations.





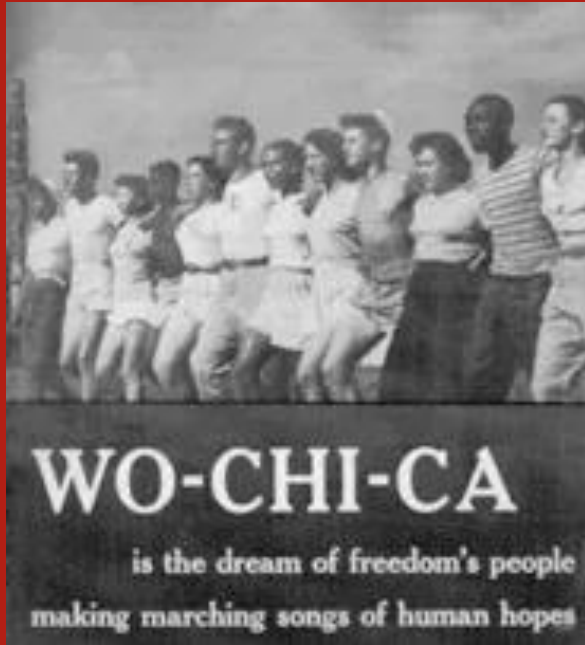
Wo-Chi-Ca - The Worker's Children Camp

Wo-Chi-Ca camp was birthed in 1934 amidst World War II, McCarthyism, The Great Depression, and the Cold War. Wo-Chi-Camp is short for Workers Children's Camp. It was an interracial co-educational summer vacation camp found in New Jersey. The emergence of this camp came from summer vacation homes designed for people with ties to the Communist Party. Originally, these spaces were inter-generational, but the adults began to realize that the youth needed their own summer community as well. In 1934, a New Jersey farmer and his wife donated 127 acres of land to start Camp Unity, the first interracial camp supported by the communist party in the United States. Camp Unity would then be called Workers Children's Camp or Wo-Chi-Ca for short. "The idealist who would found Wo-Chi-Ca wanted their children to experience 'The World of the Future' today, through shared living with those of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. They especially wanted to welcome negro children to their new camp. Labor-based, co-educational, affordable, interracial- for a children's camp in 1934, a revolutionary concept."





Building Relationships Across Ethnic and Racial Divides



Wo-Chi-Ca's directors wanted ethnic diversity and racial integration. Many of the campers came from union families and so the ethnic diversity was not hard to get, but the racial integration was more difficult. African Americans at the time were barred from most unions and were segregated in the ghettos. So, the organizers of the camp decided to reach out to Black neighborhoods in order to ensure that Black children had the same opportunities as Whites. This was particularly important because the McCarthy era had created distance among the NAACP and the Communist Party. Wo-Chi-Ca would serve as a way to support the Civil Rights Movement. Wo-Chi-Ca was very successful at doing this and in 1943, there was one Black child for every 5 White children at Wo-Chi-Ca. Camp ran for five periods of two weeks each, with room for 200 children at any given time. The camp committed itself to music and the arts. It was well known for its commitment to raising awareness and building appreciation for arts and music. Art and music was used as a strategy to build relationships across ethnic and racial divides that were happening as a result of the segregation that was in place. Wo-Chi-Ca committed itself to diversity both in their campers and their staff.



A Glimpse of What the World Should Be

Famous artist Pete Seegar, Paul Robeson, and Woody Guthrie had visited or worked at the camp during its time. Paul Robeson, an American singer and actor, was actively involved in the camp. He first came to the camp in 1940 and returned every year to sing, play ball, and talk to the campers. The camp also saw other notable artists such as Charles White, Canada Lee, Pearl Primus, Ernest Crichlow, Jacob Lawrence, and political figures such as Howard Fast and Dr. Edward Barsky. By diversifying the staff and campers and inviting prominent leaders from the Black community to the camp, the camp served as a uniquely strong educational environment. The camp served as a glimpse of what the world should be. It softened prejudices and stereotypes and created friendships with children before they were socialized into racism. This camp also reflected a change in ideology that was in line with society. This ideology was one that was child inclusive, labor oriented, and community focused. They did this through art programming that connected art education with deeper understanding of collective struggle.



Paul Robeson Surrounded by Children at Camp Wo-Chi-Ca



A Progressive and Educational Summer Camp for Kids

Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, like other leftist camps at the time, believed in intentionally and openly discussing race and class. However, Wo-Chi-Ca's focus on intentional dialogue was also complemented by the everyday camp practices. Camp Wo-Chi-Ca addressed race and class in two separate, but connected ways: through staffing (discussed earlier) and programming. This intersection of staff and programming seeped into several categories: visual arts, performing arts, recreation, and political activism.

Wo-Chi-Ca was a progressive educational summer camp for kids. These young pioneers were activists and leaders. Judy Hodges was among the campers who during the 1930's and 1940's was learning about the importance of loving all humankind as well as playing board games and receiving swimming lessons.

In the early 1950's the camp fell to the pressure of McCarthyism and closed its doors. Like many other leftist camps, Wo-Chi-Ca struggled with threats ranging from community members to state and federal pressures. The biggest pressure was financial. After the IWO was placed on the U.S. Attorney General's "List of Subversive Organizations," the camp could no longer get federal tax exemptions. The camp's name was changed several times in order to avoid the financial issues, but to no avail. The camp was forced to close but its commitment to social justice and racial integration was carried out into the future by the campers and staff members who spent their summers there.



Discussion & New Members Introductions



New Member Introductions

- What is your name, pronouns and state (or country/territory)?
- Where do you work? Is it unionized?
- How did you find out about the People's School?
- What do you think about tonight's class?



Discussion & Wrap Up



Announcements

- PCUSA Cell Chairs need to call members of their cells to remind them about attendance.
- The next issue of New Masses (2026) has begun production. If you have art you want us to feature, email it to info@partyofcommunistsusa.net.



Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteers for the staff of the People's School! Here's a few roles we need filled:

- People to help manage posting on our social media and podcast platforms
- Video Editors, Audio Editors, Graphic Designers, Artists, Narrators
- Web Controls, Moderators

Email info@peopleschool.us if you're interested and try to attend our next staff meeting if possible.



View From Left Field

<https://viewfromleftfield.libsyn.com>



The Old PSMLS Youtube is now the Youtube of View From Left Field, a podcast of analysis and discussion of current events from a progressive perspective.

Like the Youtube videos and subscribe with 5 star ratings on your podcast platforms.

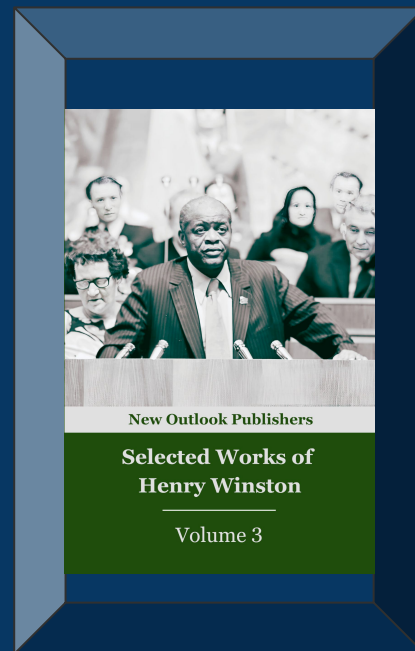
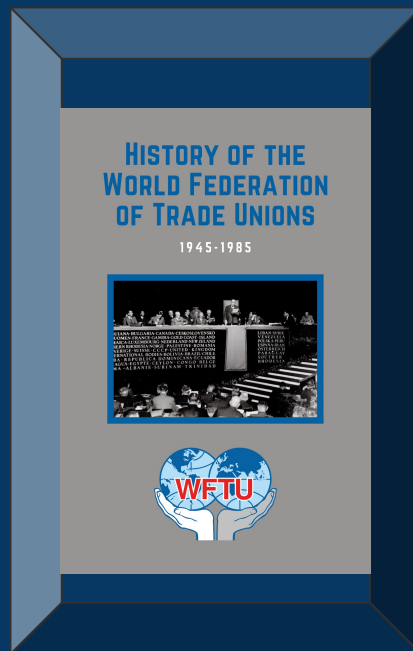
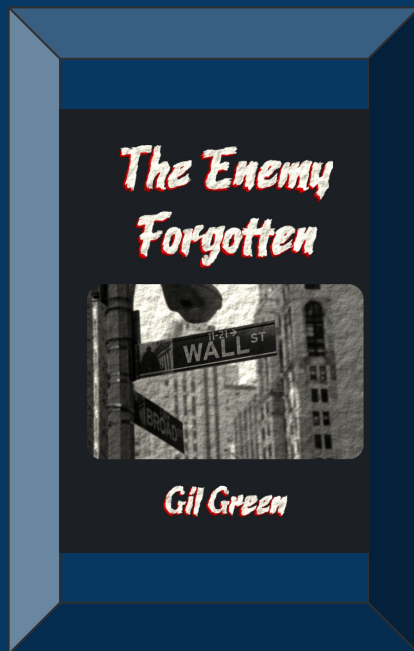
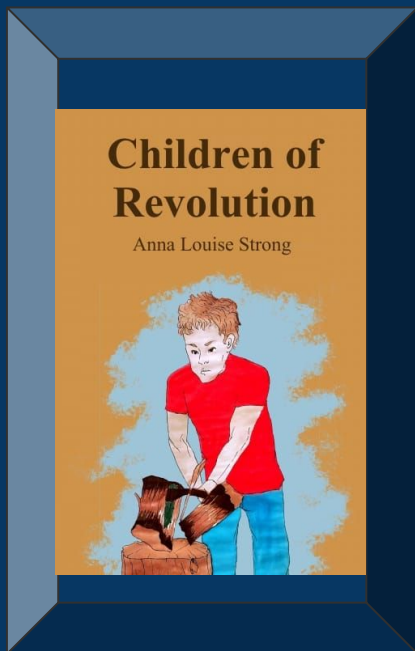




New Outlook Publishers
newoutlookpublishers.store



Relevant and Latest Releases





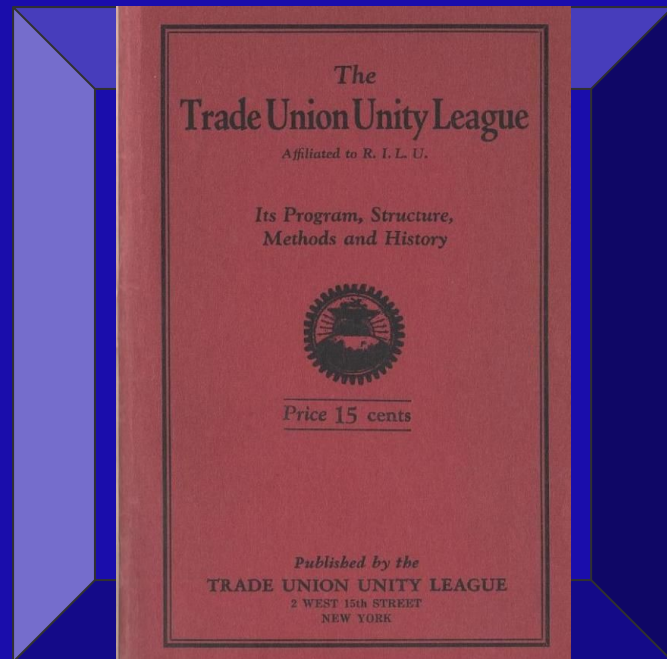
Harry Bridges School of Labor

luel.us/laborschool/



The Harry Bridges School of Labor is a monthly class covering a variety of topics aimed at building class consciousness among union members.

December's class is on the history of the Trade Union Unity League (TUUL). Class will be Saturday December 6th, 2025 at 7pm EST/4pm PST.





Solidarity Forever - Performed at Camp Red Star