



**MISSION SIBERIA**

Although the history is painful, it must be preserved. Ruthless repressions against Lithuanians by the USSR were extremely dreadful. During the period of 11 years more than 130 000 people were exiled from Lithuanian territory and estimated 150 000 Lithuanians were imprisoned in labor camps. The massive exile to Siberia started on14 June, 1941.

Mission Siberia is the project which has lasted for 12 years organizing expeditions for young adults to Siberian region. The main goal of the expeditions is to rebuild and restore cemeteries of the exiled Lithuanians and build crosses in remembrance of their death. Moreover, the participants of the expeditions seek to reach out to our nationals and their children who still live in Siberia to this day. After the expeditions, the participants visit schools all over Lithuania and inspire students to develop interest in the history of Lithuania to preserve it for future generations.

In the span of 11 years of the project, there were over 12 000 young volunteers expressing their will to take part in 15 expeditions, thousands of presentations were held in schools, universities and social centers, hundreds of photography exhibitions were arranged as well as new documentary films were shot. It all contributes to the development of the young generation’s the public spirit and pride of the country.

In the meeting in Vilnius Zverynas gymnasium on 13 April, participant of Mission Siberia 2017 **Simona Budreckaite** presented the work of the project and shared her valuable experience with the community of the gymnasium.







