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Siberian Village Gets Internet Tower After Student Climbs Tree for Zoom Classes

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Alexei Dudoladov **Yevgeny Sofiychuk / TASS**

Authorities in Siberia have installed an internet tower in a remote village after a local college student went viral for having to climb a birch tree in the woods to attend his Zoom lectures.

Alexei Dudoladov, who goes by *Omskiy Kolkhoznik* (Farmer from Omsk) on TikTok, rose to popularity for live-streaming from the birch tree and sharing the realities of rural Russian life.

Embed:



View this post on Instagram

A post shared by Лёха из деревни (@omskiy.kolhoznik)

In November, he posted a video appeal to his regional governor, saying his village only gets 2G signal and that the only way he can get adequate internet access is by climbing the 8-meter tree located 300 meters from his home. When Russian universities switched to remote learning last fall due to the coronavirus, Dudoladov said he had to sit in the tree to attend his mandatory Zoom lectures, often in cold weather.

After Dudoladov's video went viral, local authorities vowed to fix the situation for the blogger and his 39 fellow villagers.

In an Instagram post on Tuesday, Dudoladov thanked everyone who helped accomplish this goal.

“Any goal can be achieved! The main thing is to work slowly but surely toward it. Success will come sooner or later,” Dudoladov wrote in his post.

It’s one small step for humankind, but one giant leap for a TikToker in a birch tree.

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