

Eagle's Voyage To Australia

Today, at the direction of President Ronald Reagan, the Coast Guard's Barque **EAGLE** will embark on an eight month, 26,000 mile round-trip voyage. The 295 foot-long tall ship will sail in response to the invitation from Australia's Prime Minister to represent the United States in celebrating the Island Continent's Bicentennial.

On board the ship will be a crew of about 200 including 140 cadets who will receive training in seamanship and navigation. Additionally, they will continue their college academic studies while on cruise due to the length of the voyage. Also on board will be two Australian youths and representatives from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America.

EAGLE will make port calls along the way in Florida, Colombia, Ecuador, Tahiti, and other South Pacific islands before arriving in New Castle, Australia, around December 20. The tall ship will act as good will ambassador during her port calls and play host to numerous dignitaries.

While in Australia, the crew will be treated to uniquely Australian activities such as Bush dances, sporting events, and cultural entertainment. Some crew members will spend the holiday season with Australian families.

EAGLE will compete against other tall ships in a race from Hobart, Tasmania, to Sydney, Australia. She will then participate in a parade of sail in Sydney Harbor commemorating Australia Day, January 26.

On her return trip, **EAGLE** will carry a fresh crew of cadets, scouts, and Australia youths to Hawaii, Washington, California, Latin American, and Florida. She will return to New London around May 3.

