Australia's national sail training ship *Young Endeavour* is now accepting applications for youth to join eleven day voyages departing between September and December 2011. Young Australians aged 16 to 23 can apply for the ballot at [www.youngendeavour.gov.au](http://www.youngendeavour.gov.au) until 05 June 2011. No sailing experience is required.

A voyage in *Young Endeavour* is a challenging adventure at sea, and a unique opportunity for youth to develop teamwork and leadership skills through a world recognised organisation. The current ballot includes voyages departing from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, which will be crewed by youth from around the country.

During each voyage youth crew learn the skills to successfully sail a square rigged ship. They climb the 30 metre mast, set and furl sails, and maintain a 24 hour watch on the bridge. They also learn to navigate, take the helm, keep lookout and help the chef in the ship’s galley. Once they have learned these skills each youth crew will take command of *Young Endeavour* for 24 hours, sailing the ship along the Australian coast. On their last day at sea they will host a local group of youth with special needs, sharing their new found knowledge and experiences.

19 year old Kirsty Reaks, of Rye, was elected youth crew captain on her voyage from Devonport to Geelong in January. “Being elected captain of a multi-million dollar ship was absolutely exhilarating. What I wanted was a challenge, and the responsibility and adrenalin I experienced in *Young Endeavour* were amazing. The problem solving skills, teamwork, the friendships, and working with so many different people in a small space has been a fantastic life experience which I would recommend to every single young Australian.”

Since 1988 the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy, has provided challenging training voyages for over 11,000 young Australians in the tall ship *Young Endeavour*. The specially designed program delivered aboard the ship increases the youth crew's self awareness, develops teamwork and leadership skills, and fosters a strong sense of community spirit.

For more information please visit [www.youngendeavour.gov.au](http://www.youngendeavour.gov.au), or contact our office to obtain posters for your school. You are welcome to include this information in your school newsletter or website.

Encourage your students to apply for the voyage of a lifetime in *Young Endeavour*.

Regards,
Jennifer

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Jennifer Reilly
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