

# Press Release

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## Ocean Youth Academy Launches Inaugural Student Polar Expedition with Swan Hellenic aboard the M/V Vega



*The SH VEGA, OYA's Adventure Platform for their inaugural student polar expedition to the Arctic.*

April 1st 2024 – Ocean Youth Academy (OYA) is excited to announce its first student polar expeditions in collaboration with renowned expedition cruise line, Swan Hellenic, aboard the magnificent *SH Vega*. This unique program offers students a comprehensive educational journey that begins long before they set sail, with OYA's pre-journey online coursework, The Polar Oceans Course.

Students embarking on this unparalleled adventure will not only witness the wonders of the Arctic firsthand but will also be eligible to earn the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh award through their

participation in OYA's carefully curated program. The award recognizes adolescents and young adults for completing a series of self-improvement exercises, which are embodied in the spirit and activities of the polar expeditions.

"The *SH Vega* will be more than just a ship; it will be a floating classroom, brimming with exploration and learning," states Amanda Hunter, Founder and CEO of Ocean Youth Academy. "By blending our rich online coursework with the physical experience of the expedition, we're offering a one-of-its kind educational package that transcends boundaries and textbooks."

Sam Gagnon, Operations Manager of Swan Hellenic, adds, "We are thrilled to support OYA in launching this educational initiative. The M/V VEGA is designed to offer intimate access to the world's most pristine wilderness areas while providing a luxurious and safe journey, making it the perfect vessel for these young explorers."

Set to commence on July 28th, 2024, the expedition starts in Copenhagen and departs from Longyearbyen, Svalbard, offering a transformative experience that aims to educate, inspire, and instill a lifelong passion for ocean conservation and exploration in each participant.

For full details on the Ocean Youth Academy's student polar expeditions, including enrollment and the opportunity to earn the Duke of Edinburgh award, visit [www.oceanyouthacademy.com](http://www.oceanyouthacademy.com) or reach out via email to [info@oceanyouthacademy.com](mailto:info@oceanyouthacademy.com).

Join Ocean Youth Academy as we chart a new course in educational adventure and global stewardship.

### **About Ocean Youth Academy**

Ocean Youth Academy is a non-profit organization based in California, dedicated to fostering a deep connection between young people and the ocean. Through innovative educational experiences like The Polar Oceans Course and immersive expeditions, OYA nurtures the marine scientists, conservationists, and advocates of tomorrow.

### **About Swan Hellenic**

Swan Hellenic is an iconic name in polar expedition cruising, offering cultural and educational voyages to the most exceptional and remote locations on the planet. With a fleet of boutique expedition ships, Swan Hellenic provides discerning travelers with authentic, high-caliber experiences.

Ocean Youth Academy

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Ocean Youth Academy is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, dedicated to connecting youth with our oceans.