Coast Guard Cutter “Adler” to dock at Navy Pier loaded with Christmas Trees destined for 1,200 inner city families

Chicago’s Christmas Ship continues tradition 12 years running


WHAT: The arrival ceremony for the new state-of-the-art Coast Guard Cutter, “Adler” will take place at Chicago’s Navy Pier Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 at 8:30 a.m., welcomed in grand fashion by Fire and Police boats, a live military band and hundreds of students participating in educational programs related to ecology, the traditions of the Christmas Ship and missions of the US Coast Guard.

WHEN: The major event occurs on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011 at 10 a.m. near the “Captain at the Helm” statue south of the Navy Pier entrance. The “Adler” will be welcomed in honor of the “Chicago’s Christmas Ship” tradition bringing Christmas trees to 1,200 deserving families in the Chicago area.

DETAILS: The ceremony includes presentation of colors by the North Suburban Young Marines from Great Lakes, Illinois and a memorial wreath laying ceremony commemorating the Merchant Marine officers lost on the Great Lakes. The high point of the ceremony is the fly over by a United States Coast guard helicopter carrying a memorial wreath to be placed on the waves near the Chicago lighthouse. (Weather permitting)

Three families, representing the more than twelve hundred deserving families who will be given trees this year, will be present to receive the first Christmas trees.

Guest speakers include: Rear Admiral Michael N. Parks, Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District; Mary Ellen Durley, Commanding Officer, US Coast Guard Cutter Alder.

Public Tours of the USCGC Adler will be provided on Friday December 2, – Saturday December 3, 2011 from 1:30 - 5 p.m. The USCGC Adler expects to depart Chicago on Sunday, December 4, 2011.

WHERE: Navy Pier, 600 East Grand Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

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