

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to join the yacht club?

No. Of course, we'd love for you to (and you would get a \$50 discount on sail camp), but all children are welcome.

Does my child need to know anything about sailing?

No. This class is for beginners as well as more experienced sailors. Children should know how to swim.

How hard is it to learn sailing?

Not hard at all. Almost any child that shows an interest can learn. No real athleticism is necessary, and girls participate on an equal footing with boys. A certain amount of agility is good.

What do I need to supply?

Your child should bring their own life jacket, since it is important that it fits well. It should be comfortable, since they will be spending a lot of time in it. Kids should wear swimsuits to class, so they may need a change of clothes for the ride home. They should also bring sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat, a beach towel, a water bottle, and lunch. Phil's restaurant downstairs is open for takeout lunch Tuesday thru Friday if necessary.

Where do the lessons take place?

Classroom lessons take place in the yacht club above Phil's Marina Restaurant on Oak Harbor. Initial sailing lessons are in the protected harbor behind the yacht club. As the kids gain expertise, the instructors may lead them out into the lake in good weather. Commonly in the past, there has been a class 'field trip' where the students sail their boats to a club member's house in Eden Isles for a swim party.

What, exactly, do the children learn?

Younger beginners learn how to rig and sail a small one-person boat called an Optimist (or Opti). Older beginners may learn how to rig and sail a slightly bigger one - or two - person boat called a Laser. More experienced children may sail bigger boats such as a 420 or Flying Scot. Kids also learn basic boat safety, how to right a capsized boat, knot-tying, and beginning sailboat racing. Last but not least, they learn self-confidence and self-reliance.

Are these qualified instructors?

Yes. All instructors and counselors have training and certification from US Sailing, a national governing body. They all have prior experience teaching sail camp at TYC, and the lead instructor teaches courses at high schools and yacht clubs in New Orleans.

Do the instructors ride in the boats with the children?

Instructors are usually in 'chase boats', or small motorboats, so they can keep tabs on all the kids. Counselors sometimes ride in the sailboats when giving lessons to beginners, and experienced campers will usually go with beginners until they become comfortable on their own.

What if it rains?

Not unusual on summer afternoons. Instructors will take the kids upstairs to the yacht club, where they may get more classroom instruction, play games, or watch movies.

Do you offer before-class or after-class care?

Unfortunately, no. We are not currently in a position to offer child care. Please be prompt when picking up your children.

My child is only 6, but your flyer says ages 7 – 15. Do you make exceptions?

Occasionally, on a case-by-case basis. We have found that, in general, younger children have difficulty focusing on the lessons and require more than their share of attention from the instructors. The objective of Sail Camp is to teach children to sail on their own, not to be a babysitting service.

Do you offer sailing classes for adults?

We are currently scheduling adult classes based on demand. Please contact the club for details. Interested adults can usually find rides on bigger boats during Wednesday night fun races in the spring and fall. No experience necessary, only a willingness to learn. Come to the dock behind Phil's Restaurant around 6PM.

Can I see the facility before I sign up?

Sure. We are holding an Open House on Saturday, April 12 from 3PM to 6PM. Please visit!

Where do I sign up?

Registration forms are available upstairs at the yacht club. A deposit will be necessary to hold a place in camp.