



Bellingham Yacht Club Youth Sailing 2019 Student Orientation

Welcome Aboard!!!

Dear Parents:

The success of the Bellingham Yacht Club's (BYC) summer youth sailing program depends in part on each student being well prepared for class every day. Please make sure your kids are prepared for the BYC's summer sailing classes by having them bring the following to every class:

- **A US Coast Guard approved life jacket suitable to your child's size.** We recommend that you purchase one for your child. You also may borrow youth life jackets from the Port of Bellingham's Squalicum Harbor main office (near the BYC) through the life jacket loaner program. **BYC SAILING STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR COAST GUARD APPROVED LIFE JACKETS WHENEVER THEY ARE IN BOATS, ON DOCKS, OR NEAR THE WATER – NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- A wet suit. Wet suits come in many styles. You may want to consider having your child wear a "shorty" wet suit (covers the torso, and upper arms and upper legs), or a wet suit that fully covers the torso, arms and legs. They also must wear water tolerant footwear. Sailing gloves also are highly recommended.
- We recommend that your student wear a swim suit under their wet suit, and have a change of clothes including a jacket or sweat shirt. We also recommend bringing along a towel to each class.
- A hat providing good sun protection and water resistant sun screen. Sunlight reflects off the water, boat decks and sails, and can cause severe sunburns (even on cloudy days) if a hat and sunscreen are not worn. Sunglasses are also highly recommended to protect the eyes from sunburn as well.
- A sack lunch, morning and afternoon snacks, and plenty of water or other beverage.
- A strong sense of adventure, a good attitude, and a willingness to listen, learn, and pay attention. Respect for the instructors and other students, and good behavior is expected of all students at all times.

We ask that you let our instructors know about any special needs your child may have including medical conditions and food allergies. Students will undergo a basic swimming test (while wearing a life jacket and wet suit) the first day of each week-long class, so make sure they are ready to swim.

Monday Morning Class Meeting Time and Location: Check-in for the BYC's summer sailing classes will be located in the basement of the Bellingham Yacht Club, 2625 Harbor Loop, Bellingham, WA 98225. The basement entrance is located on the east side of the building next to the America's Cup coffee stand. We ask that a parent or guardian check-in students Monday (or Tuesday) morning starting at **15 minutes** before the class start time. **We also ask that you promptly pick-up your child at the end of each class.**

Class Dates and Times: Please check the [Course Schedule](#) for dates and times as they vary depending on the course and the week. Generally, all classes start at 9:00 am, but some end at 1:00 pm and some at 4:00 pm.

Do You Have Questions, Concerns, or Comments about the BYC's Summer Youth Sailing Program? Please direct them to **Mike Powell** at (360) 306-8336 or youthsailing@byc.org.

Thank you for helping make the BYC's Summer Youth Sailing Program a success! I hope everyone has a great summer!

Mike Powell, BYC Youth Sailing Program Director - (360) 306-8336 – youthsailing@byc.org