

## **Learn to Sail Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What should I bring to my sailing class?**

- closed-toe shoes that can get wet
- a swimsuit and towel
- comfortable athletic clothing
- a few dollars for ice cream
- sunscreen, hat, sunglasses
- water bottle and snack
- For full day camps: lunch

### **How well does my child have to be able to swim?**

Children should be able to swim 50 feet along the dock, with no life jacket. They will also be asked to tread water for about one minute and put on a life jacket in the water. Children don't need to be the strongest swimmers but they should certainly be comfortable in the water.

### **What should I expect in the capsize practice?**

The coach will instruct students on the proper way to capsize then right a boat through a discussion and demonstration on land. Then, sailors will get in the water (while wearing a life jacket), swim a few feet to a boat that is tied to the dock, climb in the boat, tip it over, right it, and swim back to the dock. The capsize drill is an important safety feature of any small boat sailing camp or class.

### **How old does my child need to be to participate?**

Children aged 5-7 should start in Minnows. Ages 8-12 should participate in an Opti class. Ages 13-18 can sail in Lasers or C420s. Exceptions may be made for very tall/heavy 11-12 year olds (over 5'6" and/or over 120 lbs) to sail with our teen program.

### **How do I know if I am enrolled in the class?**

You will receive a confirmation from Regatta Networks immediately after registering and paying for the class. Payment is required to reserve your space in the class. You will receive a reminder from the office one week before the class start date.

### **What kinds of clothing should my child bring to class?**

For summer sailing, your child doesn't need any sailing-specific gear. We recommend that children wear comfortable clothing that is made of fast-drying materials. Cotton takes a long time to dry so we only recommend it for the hottest days. We also recommend sending your child to camp with a fleece sweater and rain coat. Close-toed shoes are required for participation in camp. Tennis shoes, Keen sandals, and neoprene diving/sailing booties are great.

### **My child has sailed on a keelboat/with scouts/at camp/etc. What class should they take?**

If your child has never driven the sailboat or sailed alone, please register them for a beginning level class. Their previous knowledge will give them a great head start in sailing but they will benefit the most from learning boat handling with other beginners.

### **My child has sailed with WSC for several years and is bored with River Adventure or**

**half day camps. What next?**

If your child can sail upwind on a close-hauled course, downwind on a run, and is curious about racing or generally has a competitive spirit, please contact the WSC Office for more information about the junior race program. We will generally recommend that your child takes a refresher week of camp before jumping into the race program unless they have racing experience with another program.

**My child is bored sailing in Optis. Can they move up to the 420 or Laser class?**

For a combination of safety and social reasons, we can only allow children who are significantly too large for Optis and mature enough to behave appropriately with teenagers to move up. There is a big difference between the size of the sails and the weight of the boat of the Opti, Laser, and 420 and children should be able to self-rescue in most situations.

**Can I come watch my child sail?**

Parents are welcome to watch class from the picnic table on the bluff overlooking the harbor. For safety reasons, we discourage parents from being on the docks during class times.

**My child lost their... Can you help me find it?**

We keep a lost and found in the WSC clubhouse. Please mark all gear with your child's name.

**Is financial aid available?**

Scholarship requests must be made in writing to: PO Box 69385, Portland, OR 97239. Please state the amount you are requesting and which class. Be sure to include your phone number as you will be notified by phone if we are able to grant your request.

**Can my child bring a friend to class?**

Only paying participants are allowed to participate in sailing classes. For safety purposes we are unable to allow guests to join classes.

**What if we will miss a day of class, or be late, or someone else is going to pick my child up from camp?**

Please let the office know. Call 503-246-5345.

**What kind of boat will my child sail?**

Minnows camps and children ages 8-12 sail in Optis. Teens sail in 420s or Lasers.

**What kind of facilities are available at WSC?**

We have restrooms, showers, and picnic tables.

**Does my child need a life jacket?**

WSC provides life jackets for all summer programs. If your child has their own United States Coast Guard approved life jacket they wish to wear to class they may do so.

**What is the refund policy?**

Refund less \$25 administrative fee will be granted for any requests made 14 days prior to the start of any class. No refunds will be given for requests made 13 days or fewer prior to the start of any class. If class is cancelled due to low enrollment we will try to schedule you into a different class or provide a full refund. Refunds must be requested by calling the WSC office.