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<https://islandofhawaiiymca.org/>

Island of Hawai'i YMCA SAILING FAQ's

Information to Share with Parents and Students

Youth Sailing Classes

The YMCA Kawaihae Sailing Program offers youth classes to teach basic, intermediate, and advanced sailing techniques.

Because sailing knowledge is incremental, understanding the right class to join should be based on experience and comfort. If either experience or comfort are lacking, introductory classes are ideal. There will be six weekly classes beginning June 12th, 2023. The classes are taught Monday thru Thursday, from 9am to 2pm. The cost is \$250 for each 1 week class. Some financial assistance may be available for those who qualify.

Do I have to be a member of YMCA to participate in Youth Sailing?

Yes. Youth Sailing classes are open to members only.

How old does my child need to be to participate?

Sailors must be at least 10 yrs old or entering the 5th grade before the program start date and no older than 17.

How do I enroll my child in the class?

Your registration form can be completed online and submitted for review. You must include all requested documents for the registration to be accepted. Your child is not officially enrolled until registration forms and payment in full is received.

How will you keep my keiki safe?

Sailors must wear US Coast Guard Approved Life Jackets at all times while sailing. Life Jackets will be provided by the YMCA.

Clear boundaries for sailing areas will be established and communicated to all sailors prior to launching boats. Boundaries will be based on current and forecast weather conditions, group experience, and support vessel type.

Will my child be safe if there is inclement weather?

We always practice safe procedures at the YMCA Youth Sailing Program. We do not cancel class on rainy days, but may if lightning, high winds, or other hazards exist. Sailors should be prepared to sail as usual, and they should be equipped with appropriate clothing. Please bring a change of clothes!

What clothing should my child wear?

Lightweight, fast drying clothing that provide good skin coverage and dry quickly are optimal. Cotton clothing is not recommended, as it is very heavy when wet and dries slowly. Long sleeves are preferred. **Aqua shoes, Teva's or other closed toed, rubber soled shoes** are **required** for use in the boats and around the docks. The launch ramp can be very slippery and good traction is necessary. **Hats** that provide good coverage of ears and neck are recommended. Inexpensive, polarized **sunglasses** secured with a lanyard are also recommended

What types of sunscreens and sun protection should I use?

Sailors should wear waterproof sunscreen that is SPF 30+ and is reef safe. Try to find a sunscreen that doesn't burn the eyes. When children sweat, sunscreen will often end up in their eyes.

What are the boats that will be used for this program?

The YMCA has a fleet of El Toro dinghies, Toppers, and Lasers that are used for this program. These are all single mast boats and provide the opportunity for sailors to learn the basics, and then advance to higher performance boats as they wish. Additional opportunities to sail other classes of boats exist for advanced sailors.

How well does my child have to swim?

They need to be secure and comfortable in the water. Swim test is 50 ft swim any stroke, 2 minute tread water, and putting a life-jacket on in the water. This is done in shallow water at Spencer beach on the first day of class.

We live far away. Can we get in a carpool?

Nothing is formally organized. We will be happy to provide you with a list of families. You are responsible for making contacts and arranging rides.

Can I leave my children at the Aquatics Center while they are not in class?

The sailors cannot be dropped off before 8:45 am and must be picked up at 2:00 pm each day. There will be NO supervision outside of class participation times.

Where are the classes located?

The YMCA Kawaihae South Basin facility is located on the South coral flats at Kawaihae Harbor. *This area is adjacent to an active boat ramp and state harbor facility, so participants should be patient and respectful to all members of the community who utilize this area and keep roadways clear.*

Directions: From the intersection of Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy and Kawaihae Road, drive downhill on Kawaihae Road toward Kawaihae Harbor. At the bottom of the hill, take the first left into the harbor through the green gate (Gate 1).

Take the first left through another green gate (Gate 13). Follow this road around until you see containers and stored sailboats and a large pavilion on the left. Pass through the yellow gate with the dual speedbumps, and park anywhere on the gravel. Walk in around the chain gate and meet us by the containers.

If you should have any additional questions for our instructors, please send an email to: y.sailing@islandofhawaiiymca.org.

