

Del Mar Marina Youth Sailing FAQ



1. When do classes start/end?
We start at 9:00 am (sharp) and go until about 4:30 pm give or take 10'.
2. Can the student leave early, come in late?
We ask you to make an effort to start/end with everyone else. Leaving early means that someone else will have to clean/put their boat away. Please inform us beforehand so we can manage the tasks accordingly.
3. What if I cannot pick up my child by 4:30 pm?
Please let us know beforehand and the student will need to remain on site until you pick him/her up. Please give us a call if you are stuck in traffic.
4. What does a US Sailing youth basic sailing license mean? How hard is it to get one? US Sailing is the official US governing body of sailing, it has a proven high quality education program/curriculum, it employs only US Sailing certified instructors, even selects/trains the athletes for the Olympics. Getting a license requires a certain effort, paying attention in the classroom and having an eagerness to learn something new. This may be achieved in one or more classes, depending on the student and the circumstances
5. Will my child get a license? Is getting a license important?
That depends on the student and the circumstances. A license means they are deemed to be able to safely sail small boats in a more or less supervised area. Usually there are a few students in each class who need a little more practice before reaching that level. Those students will receive a certification record book showing everything they accomplished as well as the areas that still need more practice. Once that's achieved they can go to any US Sailing School center in the country to demonstrate their progress. The local US Sailing instructor will issue a license when those remaining requirements have been fulfilled.
We don't consider getting a license to be the main goal of the class; rather making sure that the student has learned the basics of a new sport while having fun. Receiving a license doesn't necessarily reflect that one student is better than another. Some students are slower to catch on in the beginning but often end up being better sailors in the long run. Although we cover this topic on the first day in class it is also a good idea to address this with your child so that course and results expectations are managed appropriately. Feel free to further discuss this with the instructor.
6. What can he/she do with a license?
Most sailing centers in the US will rent a small sailboat similar to the ones used to qualify. US Sailing is one of the most, if not the most respected licenses.
7. Is there homework?
We recommend that the student reviews his/her notes every day, finishes reading the suggested pages and practices a few knots. All this should not take more than 30/45'.
8. What if they can't do it?
We review homework first thing in the morning. So the student should be able to catch up with some extra effort.

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9. What if my child misses:
 - 9.1. A full day? If this is a first time sailor it may turn out tough, however not impossible, to catch up with the rest of the class. The short answer is that it depends on the day and the student.
 - 9.2. A few hours? Shouldn't be much of a problem if the student is on track. However, if on the water tests are missed, getting a license may be delayed.
10. Is the written and practical test on Friday difficult?
As one student said: "Not if you've paid attention in class": Most students do very well on the test.
11. How important is it to know the (4) knots?
Knots are useful and fun things to learn. This is one of the areas where everyone does very well.
12. Are lunch/breaks supervised? Yes, they are, students not allowed to leave the Marina.
13. What else do we need to know about your child: ADHD, allergies, use of an inhaler, medication, ability to swim, etc.?
The more we know about your child the better we can accommodate/teach, and make sure that he/she has a safe and fun time while learning a new sport.
14. When are they sailing?
Every day. The exact time is hard to predict, please check with the instructor in the morning for an updated schedule.
15. Will they get wet?
Yes, for sure on Wednesday (capsizing exercise) and Thursday morning (when we go kayaking/swimming). Otherwise getting in the water, although not likely, could happen any time they are out sailing.
16. What else do they need?
Just water (a water bottle) is recommended: We have a water cooler for refills, lunch and snacks for the day. Other things that are recommended: sunscreen, sunglasses (croakies), a hat, closed toe shoes, extra set of clothing, bathing suit and a towel.
17. When is the graduation ceremony?
We get together around 4:00pm on Friday to wrap things up, announce the results and hand out the certificates. This event usually lasts until around 4:30 pm.
18. What are the next steps?
 - Wednesday evening races: licensed sailors can hone their newly learned skills. Please check with the office for schedule and fees. (Dependants only)
 - Take another basic sailing class: we recommend refreshing their newly acquired knowledge by taking this class at least once a year.
 - Take the advanced sailing course: recommended for those that have a solid knowledge/experience in basic sailing. This course is quite a step up from basic sailing so taking a refresher (basic sailing) course first is recommended.

Thanks for choosing Del Mar Marina