



Sailing Summer Camp Handbook 2023

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Our Mission Statement

The Austin Yacht Club ("AYC") Junior Sailing Program goals are to:

- Provide a fun and educational program for youth interested in sailing and boating.
- Maintain a safe program and teach our students safe sailing practices.
- Impart a love of sailing and boating as a lifetime sport while providing the fundamental skills necessary for participants to advance in the sports as far as their desire, skill, and hard work may take them.
- Provide a curriculum with current and effective techniques. Our coaches' goal will be to create skilled and confident youths who will respect others, will care for their equipment and the marine environment, and will be willing to help fellow sailors and boaters on and off the water.
- Work to ensure all campers will emerge with an enhanced sense of self-reliance, knowledge of seamanship, appreciation of teamwork, and solid foundation of knowledge in sailing and boating.

People to Know

Austin Yacht Club Board of Directors

Commodore

Russ Shermer, commodore@austinyachtclub.net

Sail Training Commander

Linda McDavitt, sail_training@austinyachtclub.net

Austin Yacht Club Staff

General Manager

Jackie Wheeless, gm@austinyachtclub.net

Youth Sailing Director

Emily Verdoia, emily@austinyachtclub.net

Groundskeeper

Tom Cunningham, tom@austinyachtclub.net

Camp Orientation Meeting

Please join us in person at AYC for a meet and greet with the Youth Sailing Director, tour the facilities, hear about camp, and ask any questions! Parents, guardians, campers, friends, and any potential campers are welcome to attend!

Where: 5906 Beacon Drive Austin, Texas 78734

Date: May 17, 2023

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Contact Information

Youth Sailing Director: Emily Verdoia

Email: emily@austinyachtclub.net

Phone: (512) 266-1336

- If you need to contact the Youth Sailing Director, please call the Austin Yacht Club Office or email the Youth Sailing Director.
- If you reach the answering machine, please leave a detailed message, and someone will return your call as soon as possible.
- If you have a specific need to discuss a comment, concern, idea, or issue with the Youth Sailing Director, please call the Austin Yacht Club office to schedule an appointment.
- **Note:** sailors are discouraged from using the AYC phone to call home or to receive calls except in an emergency. We find that calls home interrupt the routine of a sailor's day. Messages may be left with the Youth Sailing Director during operating hours.

Communicable Disease Information

Due to the continued presence of various communicable diseases in the United States, AYC reserves the right to change any policies regarding facemask, symptom monitoring, social distancing, etc. without notification.

Requirements for Participation

Sailors must:

- Check-in at the front gate from their car when they are dropped off.
- Bring their own snacks and water bottles.
- Complete a swim check administered the first day of every camp session. **Comfort in the water is a fundamental part of safe sailing.** Sailors will be expected to swim 50 yards, tread water for 1 minute, and then put their lifejacket on while in the water. Sailors will not be allowed to participate in on-the-water activities until they have completed the swim check. **During the swim check (and during any lake swimming), campers will be required to wear their closed-toe shoes due to underwater hazards.**
- Complete a capsizing recovery taught and administered the first day of each camp session. This will involve each sailor capsizing a boat and righting it according to AYC procedure.

Parents and Guardians must:

- Complete online registration, pay in full, and sign waivers before the first day of the session. Sailors will not be allowed to participate without completed medical information on file and full payment.
- Provide their sailor with the proper personal equipment necessary for sailing activities.
- Accept financial responsibility for any damage or loss of property that occurs while their child is participating in camp or on AYC grounds. The Sailing Director, in consultation with the responsible Instructor(s), will review any incident in which damage occurs and determine which party or parties are financially responsible.
- Adhere to the Personal Grievance Policy (see page 7) if there is a personal grievance with a Counselor or other AYC employee, or any volunteer or fellow participant.

Daily Schedule

8:00	Early drop-off
9:00	Morning chalk talk and sunscreen
9:30	Morning sail
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Pool time
2:00	Afternoon chalk talk and sunscreen
2:30	Afternoon sail
4:30	Derigging
4:45	Debrief and snack time
5:00	Pick-up
6:00	End of late pick-up

Arrival and Departure Information

The Austin Yacht Club offers complimentary early drop off between 8:00am and 9:00am and late pick-up between 5:00pm and 6:00pm. **All campers must be picked up by 6:00pm. AYC reserves the right to charge a late fee for pick-up after 6:00pm.**

The Austin Yacht Club is a members-only gated facility. The gate will be open during drop-off and pick-up times only. Each morning, there will be a station outside of the gate where sailors will check-in with a Counselor and give their lunch order from their car. The car will then drive into AYC to drop their sailor off at the Sail Training Cabin.

You will need to sign your camper in and out every time you drop them off or pick them up. If necessary, please provide a list of any other people who are authorized to pick your child up on the first day of camp. If the list of names needs to be changed, you must tell the Counselor on the morning of and sign a note. E-mail or telephone notification of additional permissions for pick-up will not be accepted.

Prompt arrival and continuous attendance are important factors in getting the most out of the Sailing Summer Camp. Campers who arrive late may delay or disrupt scheduled lessons, activities, and sailing time. Classes will meet regardless of weather and attendance will be taken. **If a camper must miss camp or will be arriving late, please notify the Youth Sailing Director via email.**

Lunch

Boxed lunches (sandwich, chips, and a cookie) from Thundercloud Subs may be purchased for an additional \$40.00 a week (Monday-Thursday). Friday is Pizza Day for all campers (included in registration). AYC will provide water throughout the day and an afternoon snack. If you wish to send your camper with their own lunch, please keep in mind that campers will not have access to a refrigerator or microwave.

Prescription Medication Procedures

If a camper is taking a prescription medication while s/he is in camp, the medication must be in the original container with the prescription label, and the Youth Sailing Director shall place that medication in the "Prescription Medication Lock Box" located in the AYC Office. The medication shall be administered by the Youth Sailing Director. At no time shall a camper be allowed to self-administer the medication without the Sailing Director's supervision. The medication information and administration procedures must be documented in the Medical Information provided by the Parent/Guardian at registration.

What to Bring

Put your sailor's name on everything they bring to camp! All personal items must be stowed in or outside the AYC Sail Training Cabin. Unclaimed items will be placed in the Lost and Found, located just outside the AYC Sail Training Cabin. AYC is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen equipment or clothing.

Required Gear

- Coast Guard Approved Life Jacket (*only applies if providing your own*)
- Swimsuit, swim gear, etc. → wear this to camp!
- Towel
- Boat shoes, water shoes, suitable for getting wet, and closed-toe.
 - **FLIP FLOPS AND SHOES WITHOUT BACKS ARE PROHIBITED.**
- A refillable water bottle.
 - *No disposable plastic bottles, please!*
- Sunscreen
- Hat

Recommended Gear

- Sunglasses and strap (AYC will not be responsible for lost eyewear)
- Change of clothes for after sailing at end of day
- Long sleeve shirt for extra sun protection
- Chapstick with sunscreen
- Duffel bag for gear
- Tennis shoes

Campers will not be allowed to use phones or any other electronics during the day. These items are a distraction and detract from the mission statement of our camp. Phones must be stored in the camper's bag throughout the day. We discourage bringing any other kind of electronics or valuables to camp. Counselors reserve the right to confiscate any electronics that are in use during the day. The camper can collect confiscated items from the Youth Sailing Director's office at the end of the day.

Safety Rules

- A US Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device of at least Type III must be worn at all times while on the dock and on/in the lake.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times (closed-toe shoes).
- All participants must protect themselves sufficiently from prolonged exposure to the sun. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to send the child to camp fully prepared (sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, water bottle, etc.).
- Personal property is the responsibility of the student and not AYC Staff.
- Participants are expected to stay in designated areas under their Counselors' supervision. Certain areas will be off limits. No participant shall leave a class without permission.
- There will be no running, pushing, or shoving on the docks. Diving from the docks and jumping from the upper levels of the Rylander Pavilion is strictly forbidden. No swimming without the permission of a Counselor.
- There will be no abusing other students or Counselors, physically or verbally. No disruptive behavior, disrespectful gestures, actions, or language.
- AYC Facilities and Equipment must be kept clean and in good shape. Sailors must report all broken equipment and any unusual or unsafe condition to a Counselor as soon as possible.
- **All accidents, injuries must be reported to a Counselor.** The "First Aid Station" is in the AYC Sail Training Cabin. A log of all accidents and injuries will be kept by the Youth Sailing Director.

Discipline

Sailors are expected to behave properly during class, and treat their Counselors, peers, and AYC Equipment with respect. The rules of the Junior Sailing Program are designed for the safety and comfort of all sailors and to protect AYC property. Sailors are expected to adhere to those rules.

For minor infractions: students who are disrespectful or disruptive physically or verbally will be given a verbal warning. After the first warning, if the behavior continues to occur, the Counselor will send the student to the Youth Sailing Director's office. Depending on the severity of the action, the Director may call the parents and the transgression will be recorded. If the inappropriate behavior persists, the Director may ask to meet with the student and parents to discuss the repeated transgressions and make a plan to avoid any future misbehavior. The Sail Training Commander and/or General Manager may be included in this discussion. Any further transgressions may result in suspension or dismissal from lessons.

For serious infractions: students who engage in violent or destructive acts, violate the law, or endanger fellow participants or Counselors will be immediately sent to the Director's office. The Director may call the parents and under the discretion of the Director, the Sail Training Commander, and the General Manager, the student may be suspended or dismissed from class. As AYC deems appropriate, it may also inform governmental authorities.

Students who are suspended or dismissed will receive no reimbursements for the Junior Sailing Program fees. If a parent, guardian, or sailor has a personal grievance, he or she must follow the Personal Grievance Policy.

All instances will be logged, which will provide a reference to the AYC Board of Directors, staff, and outside parties, if necessary.

Personal Grievance Policy

If a parent has any grievance with the AYC Junior Sailing Program, AYC or its staff, the person with said grievance must adhere to the "Personal Grievance Policy" as outlined below.

First,

- Following an incident, we strongly advise you to consider the matter for a minimum of 24 hours – many initial reactions to particular incidences can be stronger than intended or needed, so we recommend calculating any grievances before bringing them forward.
- Grievances regarding any aspect of the Junior Sailing Program or related incidences should be brought up with the Youth Sailing Director. Any issues with the Youth Sailing Director should be brought up with the Sail Training Commander and/or the General Manager.
- When an issue is brought to the Youth Sailing Director, a time will be arranged to talk further about the matter. The Sail Training Commander and/or General Manager may be asked to join in this conversation.
- The Director (or, in the event the Sail Training Commander and/or General Manager get involved, the Sail Training Commander and/or General Manager) will work to understand the situation and come to a resolution in the best interest of all parties involved.

Second, if the person is not satisfied with the resolution offered by the Director (or Sail Training Commander and/or General Manager), the person shall provide a written explanation of the grievance to the Commodore, who shall review the explanation and any other relevant information and decide whether to adopt the prior decision or offer amended relief.