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<https://islandofhawaiiymca.org/>

Island of Hawai'i YMCA SAILING FAQ's

Information to Share with Parents and Students

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY SAILING PROGRAM AND SAILING CLASSES?

Community Sailing Program

The YMCA Community Sailing Program is for **experienced sailors** - either graduates of our courses or other sailors with previous experience - to use the YMCA small sailboats on scheduled sail days (usually the second Saturday of each month). The Community Sailing Program costs \$70/year for a household (3 adults and 3 children), and you do NOT have to join the Community Sailing Program to sign up for classes. There will **not** be instructors available during Community Sail Days, so sailors need to know how to rig and de-rig their own boats, clean and store equipment properly, and demonstrate skills to get checked-out to sail our small boats by a designated person (right now, that's Julia Rose and Ben Berkey). There will be a safety boat on the water during community sail days. If we stay in the small harbor basin, the safety boat can be a kayak or paddle board. If we ever leave the small harbor basin, we need to deploy a power boat to assist and support sailors.

Sailing Classes

The YMCA Kawaihae Sailing Program offers classes to both youth and adults to teach basic, intermediate, and advanced sailing techniques. Youth must be at least 10 years old to participate in sailing classes. Adult classes are not offered on a regular schedule, but rather once we have enough inquiries to fill a class. Therefore - if you are interested in adult sailing classes, please send email to y.sailing@islandofhawaiiymca.org!

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. Classes are usually 4 days long, from

9am to 2pm. Classes cost \$125, and you must be a YMCA member to sign up. You do not need to join the Community Sailing Program to sign up for classes.

WHERE ARE YOU 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.

WHAT BOATS WILL WE BE SAILING?

Available boats in the YMCA fleet consist of small single masted sailing vessels with open deck designs including El Toros, Toppers, and Lasers in sound working condition with all necessary parts and rigging.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Youth ages **10-18 who are interested in learning how to sail are welcome to participate. Swimming skills are required.** Although all learners are welcome, keiki who have never sailed before are encouraged to sign up for a beginner sailing class to learn the basics.

Community sail days are open to **experienced sailors** who register through <https://islandofhawaiiymca.org/>

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.

At least one support vessel will be available to assist any sailors in need of assistance during community sail days and classes.

WHAT ARE THE YMCA'S COVID-19 POLICIES?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all instructors, participants, parents, and volunteers must wear face coverings while on land. Face coverings are not required while sailing on YMCA open deck boats, but must be put on when not sailing or participating in water activities (e.g. swim test).

Temperature checks will be conducted at the start of each day of activities and when individuals arrive. Individuals who demonstrate any symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be asked to stay home. If any symptoms are observed, individuals demonstrating any symptoms will be asked to leave.