

TRY CREWING!

Colorado Sail and Yacht Club encourages the development of sailing crew members, but we are not a school. There are multiple places to learn to sail including Victoria Sailing School with classes at Chatfield; there are You Tube videos and presentations on line, instruction manuals from American Sailing Association and US Sailing are also available online. By building your knowledge in these topic areas, you will be able to improve your skill set faster. A crew member who can contribute to the performance of the boat is a valued person. These are areas where your basic knowledge of these topics will help you get a ride on a boat!

Sailing crew must be at least 18 yr. old, or 14-17 with a parent/guardian. There is no upper age limit. All crew must be physically able to safely perform all skills needed to sail the boat and help keep participants safe, including moving about the boat and hauling lines.

Sailing Knowledge Topics:

At The Dock

- Basic knots to know: bowline, round turn & 2 half hitches, clove hitch, figure 8, cleat hitch.
- Process for preparing boat to leave the dock - safety brief, crew positions, difference between “prepare to” and “do” cast off.

Under Power

- Procedure for stowing fenders and dock lines and making boat ready to sail;
- Familiar with basic right-of-way situations you encounter
- Where is the wind? Discuss onboard, water and land signs for identifying wind direction.
- Procedure of hoisting/setting sails.

Under Sail

- Know names of all running and standing rigging and parts of the boat;
- Points of Sail; Port vs Starboard Tack
- Tacking and Jibing, sailing “by the lee”
- Adjusting headsail trim - fairlead position (slowly head up and watch telltales break)
- Adjusting sail shape- basic concepts related to Mainsail: halyard tension/cunningham, outhaul tension. Adjusting mainsail trim - use of the traveler vs main sheet. Downwind vs upwind.

Crew Member Position

- Jib Sheet trimmer – when to trim, using winch, winch handle, tailing a sheet
- Main Sheet Trimmer
- Foredeck – Hoisting jib/genoa; Spinnaker handling (special training typically)
- Rail – providing gravitational assistance to keep a boat flatter