

## Cruising Education Program

### Membership Benefits:

#### Cruising Crew Upgrade:

- Required to participate in Cruising Events, including Full Moon Sails, and overnight Private Reservations with a Cruising Skipper.
- Required to participate in the Cruising Mentorship program.
- This upgrade is not required to crew on a cruiser during Member Sails or Women on the Water sails.
- A base DSC crew member (no Cruising Crew Upgrade required) will be permitted to crew on a cruiser during Member Sails and Women on the Water events. Sailing on a cruiser during WoW events is restricted to DSC members only, non-members may sail on a dayfleet boat. Occasionally there are 'guests' at Member Sails who are considering DSC membership, these guests will also not be permitted to sail on the cruisers.

#### Cruising Skipper Upgrade:

- A successful Skipper Checkout and Boat Orientations on each cruising boat are required to receive full privileges of the upgrade.
- Unlimited skippering opportunities at DSC events, including Member Sails, Full Moon Sails, and Volunteer Mentoring. Volunteer Mentoring sailing events must be documented to count as such. (Documentation procedures will be published by 2024 season launch.)
- 5 Private Day-sail Reservations per year (sailing during daylight hours – depart and return on same day).
  - Additional daysail reservations may be purchased for \$100 per day.
  - Skippers are encouraged to include DSC Cruising Crew in their daysails, but non-member guests may be brought on day-sails for no additional charge. Skipper is fully responsible for all non-member guests.
- 2 Private Overnight Reservations per year (two nights total) with a crew 100% made up of DSC members with a Cruising Skipper or Cruising Crew upgrade.
  - Additional overnight reservations may be purchased for \$150 per day.
  - Non-DSC members or DSC members without a Cruising Upgrade may join a private overnight reservation at a cost of \$50 per person.
- The above numbers of private reservations are not guaranteed and will be subject to availability. DSC programming requirements, such as Adult Education Classes or Outreach Events, will take priority.
- DSC cruising vessels may not participate in any formal or informal racing, except with prior written approval from the Executive Director (e.g. YGR).
- Cruising Skippers will be required to complete Maryland Safe Boater certification and to maintain towing insurance. Proof of towing insurance must be submitted yearly to the DSC office before any private reservation will be accepted.

## Membership Expectations:

### Volunteerism:

- DSC Cruising Skippers will be expected to contribute to the mission of the DSC through volunteerism, mentoring others, and generally having a positive impact on the entire DSC sailing community. All DSC members are expected to volunteer at 8 events per year, through active committee participation or a combination of both events and committee participation.
- See full details on volunteerism and opportunities on the DSC Volunteering webpage
- Specific opportunities for members with Cruising Upgrades to contribute/volunteer, in addition to opportunities available to everyone, include:
  - Boat Management
  - Fleet Maintenance
  - Mentoring upcoming skippers and facilitating crew-skipper connections
  - Skippering for Member Sails and Outreach events

### Cruising Skipper Checkout:

- Beginning in 2024, any DSC member may request a Cruising Skipper Checkout, regardless of having participated in DSC educational events.
- It is expected that the skipper candidate will thoroughly prepare for the checkout. The full checksheet will be published on the website prior to Spring 2024. All returning Cruising Skippers will be required to do an abbreviated re-check (at no cost) prior to June 30, 2024; they may make private reservations before their re-check. The candidate must provide crew for their checkout - the instructor will not be the crew as they will be fully engaged in evaluating the candidate.
- Each cruising skipper will be required to “re-check” with an abbreviated checkout every two years, as is done on the day-fleet. Standards will be published in advance.
- For all new Cruising Skipper candidates, who are not returning Cruising Skippers from 2023, the Cruising Skipper checkout will be conducted by a paid DSC instructor who is a licensed USCG Captain, and there will be a \$75 fee for the checkout. There will be no fee for the first attempt at a required re-check.
- A former DSC cruising skipper, who was not a member during the prior sailing season, will require a full check-out with the \$75 fee.
- Checkouts will be fair, adhere to consistent published standards, and be conducted by USCG licensed captains. The cruising Skipper candidate may request their check-out instructor be of the same gender.
- After passing their checkout, skippers must receive an orientation on each vessel they wish to skipper prior to receiving skipper privileges on that vessel. Orientations will be conducted by the volunteer Boat Managers.
- Cruising Skippers may lose their status or be subject to suspension, and/or be subject to repair bills if they cause boat damage, do not follow DSC procedures, or cause injury to crew.

## **DSC Cruising Fleet:**

- The desired size of the cruising fleet for 2024 is four (4) boats, in good (sail-able) condition.
- Akimbo and Sunrise have been identified as the boats to be used for classes in 2024, and will be available for reservation outside of class hours.
- Some cruising boats, that have been in our fleet for 3 years, may be sold. We will continue to look for donations of appropriate boats to add to the fleet. Boats held for sale may be available for member and program use at the discretion of the Executive Director.

## **DSC Cruising Instructors:**

- DSC Cruising Instructors teaching aboard boats will be licensed USCG Captains. These instructors will receive a higher rate of pay than dayfleet instructors but only while they are actively using their Captains License to teach.
- Area marine professionals will be hired to teach the classroom-based courses in diesel engines, electrical, etc.
- DSC Cruising Instructors with US Sailing Basic Cruising Certification will teach the US Sailing Basic Cruising course and offer a challenge option to those who already have the requisite skills but need to take the test.
- The DSC is actively recruiting instructors, anyone interested in becoming an instructor may contact [info@downtownsailing.org](mailto:info@downtownsailing.org) for more information or to apply.