

The background image shows three sailboats on a calm body of water. The boat on the left has a sail with blue and white diagonal stripes. The middle boat has a white sail. The boat on the right has a sail with blue, white, and yellow horizontal stripes. In the background, there is a sandy beach and some trees under a clear sky.

Welcome to Benicia Yacht Club Youth Sailing

Town Hall Meeting

February 23, 2026

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

Mark Twain-disputed

History of BYC Youth Sailing



- Officially began in the summer of 1998
- **Founding Leadership:** Ken Vanstory, John Dillow, Tim and Derith Rose
- **Initial Equipment:** Donated El Toro dinghies and expanded to include Vanguard Optimists, DeWitts and 420 vessels.
- Covid Pandemic hampered the program followed by modest recovery
- November 2025 formation of BYC Youth Sailing Steering Committee

Benicia Yacht Club Youth Sailing Steering Committee

Steve Corwin

Jane Piereth

Richard Hatch

Randy Norman

Andy Zinkevich

Bob Hall

Stephen Dale

John Kitchen

Eve Norman DNP, RN, FNP-BC



Joe Kallios

Joy Carlen

Scott Allore

Derek Linsley

Joan Ross Wildasin

Risa Corwin BSN

Lisa Norlander MD

Zack Borglin

Laura Munoz

Spirit of Our Program

Our mission is to cultivate the next generation of sailors by providing high-quality instruction to every child, regardless of their starting point, building a community of skilled, responsible, and passionate young mariners

We aim to foster self confidence, team work and a deep respect for the water in a safe and supportive environment.



**Benicia Yacht Club
Youth Sailing**

Core Values

Safety First, Always: Mastery of the water begins with a "safety-first" mindset. We instill the discipline and situational awareness necessary to protect ourselves, our crew, and our equipment.

Inclusive Excellence: Whether a student is learning their first clove hitch or perfecting a roll tack, we provide high-level instruction that meets them where they are and challenges them to grow.

Resilient Leadership: Sailing demands quick thinking and composure. We empower youth to take the tiller, make decisions, and lead with confidence.

Collaborative Sportsmanship: Success on the water is a team effort. We prioritize respect for coaches, fellow classmates, teammates, competitors, and the rules of sailing.

Environmental Stewardship: The water is our main classroom. We teach our students to be guardians of the marine environment, ensuring the health of our local waterways for future generations.

Enrollment

New to Sailing 8-12 years old

New to Sailing 13 to 16 years old

Intermediate Sailing – previous course/passes evaluation

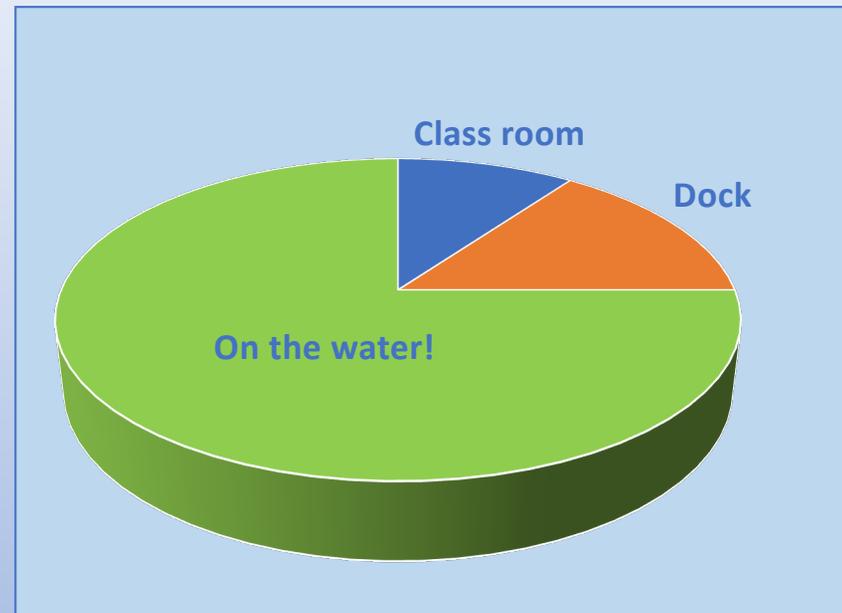
Other

Must be able to Swim 25 yards-test day 1



Key Skill Sets Taught-Beginners

- Customs and etiquette
- Safety around and on the water
- Reading the wind, water, weather
- Boat anatomy and physiology
- Points of Sail and Sail Trim
- Knots
- How to rig a boat
- How to leave the dock
- Capsize recovery
- Tacking and Gybing
- Sailing a course
- Man-over-board recovery
- Intro to navigating
- Stand-on and Give-way Boats



Curriculum Driven by:



Instructor Certifications

US Sailing Level 1 or ASA 210, (18 years old for full instructor 16 Asst.)

Cal Boaters Card

SafeSport

Teaching and Coaching Fundamentals

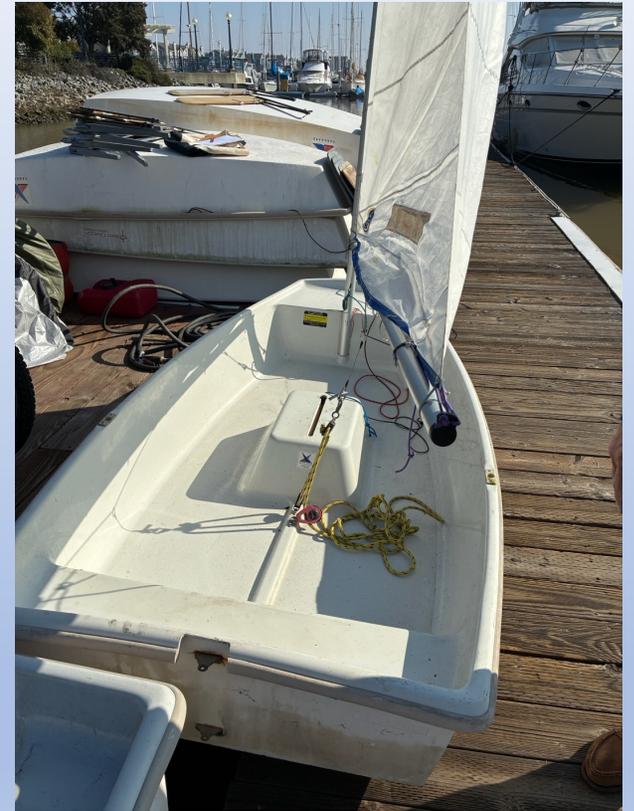
First Aid/CPR/AED*

HeadsUP

Live Scan or other acceptable background checks*

*all working with kids

Vanguard Optimist Prams



Optimist Red Dragons (similar)



2026 Scheduling-Final TBD

Each session is 5-days
Monday-Friday

6 hours per day (10
AM to 4 PM)

JUNE - JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
													
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
													
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
													

What Else is Possible?

Open Sailing Hours- Weekends Saturday or Sunday 4 hours 10AM-2PM Summer, Winter, Fall, Spring for qualified students

Weekend Sailing Classes during School Year

Keel Boat Sailing Lessons Adults and Children

High School Sailing Club



Please be sure to complete the Survey and write on the back any additional thoughts and/or comments

***The pessimist complains about the wind;
the optimist expects it to change;
the realist adjusts the sails."***

William Arthur Ward

Q&A



Benicia Yacht Club
Youth Sailing

