

# WELCOME TO The Downtown Sailing Center Community!

As a community sailing center operating since 1994, the Downtown Sailing Center (DSC) has promoted an environment of accessibility and inclusiveness so that everyone may experience the joy of sailing – especially youth, persons with disabilities, and those with limited opportunities.

The DSC is a non-profit organization that uses sailing to provide recreation and enrichment for over 2000 community members each year. Our programs include:

- workforce development for young adults
- youth summer camp
- accessible sailing for individuals living with a disability
- sailing experiences for women and non-binary people
- affordable classes and programs for all

As a member, you are a part of this community and can actively support our mission through participation and volunteerism.

In this introduction to membership, we'll share the many ways to get involved, including racing, volunteering, and socializing.

**THE DSC'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATIONAL AND LIFE-ENRICHING PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SELF-ESTEEM AND TEAMWORK THROUGH THE JOY OF SAILING. THE DOWNTOWN SAILING CENTER IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING AN ENVIRONMENT OF INCLUSIVENESS AND ACCESSIBILITY, ESPECIALLY TO YOUTH, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THOSE WITH LIMITED OPPORTUNITY.**



# GETTING ON THE WATER

The DSC offers many different programs for members to enjoy the beautiful Baltimore Harbor and beyond. Our member programs include:

## Member Sails

A great place to start for beginners! At member sails, you'll sail with an experienced volunteer skipper, and will help rig, sail, and dock the boat. See [Member Programs](#) and [calendar](#) for more info.



## Volunteering

The DSC relies on members for volunteer support of its outreach programming and fleet maintenance work. Check the [calendar](#) for opportunities and read more [here!](#)

## Women on the Water (WOW)

Women and non-binary people are invited to develop their sailing skills and confidence in a supportive, fun environment. Non-members are invited for a nominal fee. Come [join us!](#)

## Cruising Education Program

Participate in educational and recreational sailing opportunities on our fleet of cruising sailboats. An upgraded membership fee is required to participate. Full description [here](#).

## Thursday Night Racing (TNR)

Racing allows members to build community, improve their sailing skills, and scratch that competitive itch. An upgraded membership fee is required to participate. Teams of experienced members form in the early Spring, and you can learn more [here](#).

## Friday Night Fun Races

Friday Night Fun Races provide a great opportunity for members of all levels to compete in informal, pickup-style distance races. See listings on the [calendar](#) for more.

## Dinghies & Kayaks

All memberships include the use of DSC kayaks and easy-to-sail, 2-person Hansa dinghies. Orientation by DSC staff and/or trained members is required. Visit the [calendar](#) for times.

## Adult Education

Classes are not required for any program listed above but they are strongly encouraged. Those interested in accelerating their learning can sign up for adult education classes. Visit the [Adult Education](#) webpage for more information. Members enjoy discounted fees.

**CHECK [THE WEBSITE](#) FOR PROGRAM SCHEDULES AND MORE DETAILS ABOUT ALL PROGRAMS.**

# MEMBER COMMITMENT

## Values

DSC is committed to providing a friendly, safe, and rewarding experience for everyone. DSC members are expected to adhere to Member Rules and Procedures as well as DSC Community Values including:

- SAFETY
- COMMUNITY & RESPECT
- INCLUSIVENESS
- SELF IMPROVEMENT & LEARNING



## Volunteering

Volunteering adds meaning to your membership and all members are asked to volunteer in at least 8 events per season. Check out the calendar for upcoming opportunities and more details of all the opportunities here.

## Committees

Contribute your skills and interests toward supporting the DSC mission and growing our community. With more than 15 committees there is something for everyone! Training is provided, and no prior experience is necessary. Visit the Volunteer page for more details about committees.

## Other ways to support the DSC

As a charitable organization, DSC relies on a variety of funding sources to operate. Please consider a tax-deductible donation in addition to your membership dues and sharing our mission with others in your network.



# COMMUNICATION & GETTING IN TOUCH

## Program & Volunteer Registration

Signup for events and volunteer opportunities using your DSC member login on the DSC All Events Calendar.



# COMMUNICATION, CONT.

## Telegram

You can begin communicating with your fellow members right away using the DSC Telegram channels:

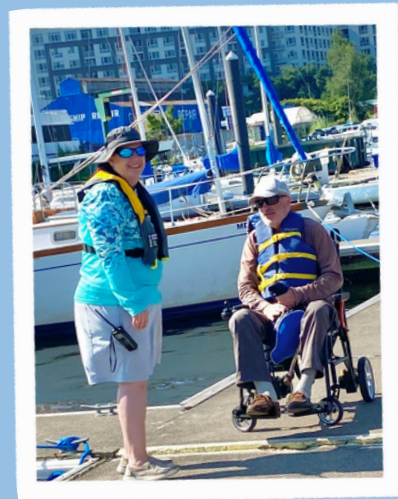
- Visit the [Forums page](#) on the DSC website.
- Join the "DSC News" and "Let's Go Sailing" channels to get connected.
- Communicate directly with fellow members.

## DSC Staff

Boat maintenance, volunteer management, bill paying, program coordination...staff is an essential part of the DSC! Be sure to [read their bios](#) and say "hi" on the docks! General inquiries can be sent to [info@downtownsailing.org](mailto:info@downtownsailing.org).

## Website

The website is a great resource for all of our community and member programs. Visit [www.downtownsailing.org](http://www.downtownsailing.org) to learn more, and don't forget about the [search function!](#)



# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Member Sail Orientation

You are invited to Member Sail Orientation at 11am before most Sunday Member Sails. This session is designed to get novice sailers out on the water with confidence. Here you will learn sailing safety, basic sailing terms, your role as a Crew Member, and get a tour of the docks. Plus meet your fellow newbies and DSC Members of all levels.

[Check the calendar](#) and register for Member Sail + Orientation.

Can't make it to an orientation? Please introduce yourself to the Dockmaster at your first Member Sail. They will connect you with a friendly skipper who will show you the ropes!

