

CSC (Cruising Skipper Candidate) Program

To develop competency in these areas and introduce the candidates to the DSC cruising, we offer the CSC program. During the practice sessions, each candidate is given an opportunity to practice the required skills on different boats and in various weather conditions. The candidates are evaluated by the CSC program mentors during the sessions. We also offer classroom seminars to provide instruction in technical areas and rules of the road.

The emphasis of the CSC program is to provide learning opportunities thru hands-on practice sessions. Candidates are given problems to solve, such as installing a roller furling jib, to improve their ability to interact with other sailors. Our mentors are instructed not to provide too much guidance or spoon-feed the candidates, but rather allow them to learn from the mistakes during the attempts. Experienced sailors who do not have large boat experience can go thru the program in 10 sessions. Those with recent large boat experience can complete the program in as few as 5 sessions.

Our secondary goal is to orient the candidates so that they become contributing members of the DSC cruising community thru volunteerism and other activities that support DSC's mission. CSC program is not simply a replacement for a skipper checkout process. It is a welcoming approach to new members who should be properly introduced to the sailing center in general and the cruising program in particular. Our limited resources and community-based approach require that each member contribute to our efforts to run a self-sufficient cruising program while supporting the DSC's mission of education and charity. Self-sufficiency of the cruising program is only possible thru active participation. Each member is expected to help with our efforts. Skippers have a leadership role that is vital to the safety of everyone and our vessels.

We admit less experienced or younger sailors to participate in the program on a case by case basis if we have room. In addition, the candidates are highly encouraged to practice on their own during other events and open sails.