

About the OSC Sailing School "Overall"

The sailing Instructional Sailing Program at the Otsego Sailing Club began in 1992 with the purchase of 4 Laser Class sailboats. The Laser Course was for kids over 10 and it was taught on weekday mornings.

As interest grew, additional boats were added to the Laser Fleet. Eventually, advanced lessons were offered for experienced young sailors in the afternoon.

Adults began to express and interest in learning to sail. The program was expanded to offer Adult Lessons taught in Lasers on weekday evenings.

The Instructional Sailing Program has strived to remain flexible, and responsive. The courses offer an exceptional value for those seeking to learn how to sail.

Sailing for Adults, Juniors, and a Day Camp for 6-10 yr old

It goes without saying that safety is stressed and embedded in the program activities. Most of the students are beginners and have very little sailing experience.

Students are taught how to rig the boats, basic boat handling skills, basic right of way rules, general seamanship, knots and nautical vocabulary associated with sailing.

The courses are very "hands on". Students are on the water and sailing the first day. They spend almost 1 1/2 to 2 hours on the water each during each lesson, learning sailing skills, and becoming more confident (weather permitting).

Opti Camp: In 2014 the Instructional Sailing Program expanded it's offerings to students aged 6-10 through the addition of Optimist Class sailboats and the first-ever formal "Sailing Camp" in Cooperstown on Otsego Lake.

This camp balances time on and off the water to keep the active interest of younger students focused, while building sailing skills on the water and while participating in structured camp craft activities when ashore.

This approach allows students to learn and enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow students. The acquisition of sailing skills requires repetition and practice. We encourage

enthusiastic students to attend more than 1 week of Opti Camp whenever possible.

The 2015 season launched another new offering - Single Handing Optimists - a program designed to build young sailors' abilities to rig their boat, launch, leave the harbor, sail with greater confidence in a variety of wind speeds, and return to harbor and dock safely... ALL BY THEMSELVES!

In the summer 2016 we began to teach some adults in a club member's Flying Scot sailboat. We found it to be a great teaching platform, much more suited to teaching adults than Lasers. We applied for and received a grant from the Flying Scot Foundation. Their support and grant allowed us to refurbish a donated Flying Scot Hull, and to purchase a used Flying Scot.

New for 2019- We are very excited to announce this year we have doubled the size of our Adult Sailing Program. It begins in June and runs into August. There will be 3-4 students in a boat with an instructor. There are 5 lessons and the courses are taught in the evenings starting at 6:00 pm. This course is a great opportunity to begin to learn how to sail.

"Come sail with us, we hope to see you in one of our courses."