

a non-profit for the future of sailing

OREGON YOUTH SAILING FOUNDATION

In 2007, a small group of dinghy sailors founded Oregon Youth Sailing Foundation (OYSF) with a generous donation intended to support a revival of high school racing in the Portland area. Over time, the focus shifted to serving those who otherwise would not have the opportunity to be on the water.

Although founded in Portland, OYSF was conceived as a state-wide effort and is independent of any sailing club. The leadership of OYSF has included sailing enthusiasts and lifelong sailors from Oregon's many clubs, as well as professionals from the sailing industry and allies from other local non-profits.

For ten years, administration of OYSF was an all-volunteer operation with very low overhead and expenses. In 2017, the Foundation hired Matt Berger as Program Coordinator with the goal of increasing activity and reach. After years of growing OYSF, he now oversees all administration,

How it All Began

programming, and fundraising as Executive Director. Now with the help of Program Coordinator Zoe Carlson and Outreach Coordinator Piper Easton, we are more active than ever with a board of directors and staff that truly understand sailing's lifelong, powerful impact.

As of 2025, OYSF has raised nearly \$1,000,000 and funded boats, sails, facilities, equipment, travel, coaching, and free community sailing programs throughout Oregon. This is all thanks to sustainable fundraising through grant writing, events, sponsorship, and an incredibly supportive community of private donors.

Looking to the future, the goal remains the same – to enrich the lives of Oregon youth by sharing the joy of sailing. The programs we support teach essential life skills, help build confidence, increase access to the outdoors, and open the channel for a life on the water.

Together, let's get more Oregon youth sailing!

2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Thursday community nights in Cascade Locks



POIC back for another two-week Build & Sail session

COLLEGIATE SAILING GRANTS for Oregon State University and University of Oregon to help with travel and fleet repair.

COACHING SUPPORT FOR THE SEARS CUP youth keelboat qualifier regatta in Portland. The Oregon teams we sponsored were the top two boats in the PNW and took 8th and 10th place at the national championship regatta in San Francisco!

COMMUNITY NIGHTS & CAMPS IN CASCADE LOCKS in partnership with Columbia Gorge Racing Association and the Gorge Canoe Club. Sponsored sailing and potlucks on the beach and delivered free lessons during paddling camps for local youth.

MONDAY NIGHT OPEN SAILING IN HOOD RIVER delivered free to 500+ kids and their families. Run by the high school Gorge Sailing Team and sponsored by OYSF.

COMMUNITY SAILING AND BOAT BUILDING SUMMER CAMPS delivered at no cost to 130+ students over 125 program hours at Willamette Sailing Club. Our flagship Build & Sail program in partnership with Wind & Oar Boat School increases access for traditionally underrepresented Portland Metro youth communities.

PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR WILLAMETTE SAILING CLUB hiring a full-time coach to grow and sustain their team for 8-12 year olds. In return, OYSF gets help with program coordination and fundraising in the off seasons.

OYSF'S FLAGSHIP COMMUNITY SAILING PROGRAM

Build & Sail Camps run in partnership with OYSF and Wind & Oar Boat School offer training to youth from traditionally underrepresented communities in the PDX area. These camps give teens the chance to learn essential STEAM-based building skills while exploring the Willamette River under sail and paddle.

Each summer, groups of Portland youth from partner organizations join our program for two-week sessions at Willamette Sailing Club. They spend mornings building a wooden skiff with expert W&O instructors, have lunch

provided by OYSF, and then sail in the afternoons with US Sailing-certified WSC coaches.

All graduates are invited to return as interns and are fully funded through the certification process to become sailing and/or building instructors within the program. Long-term success will mean increased diversity in the Portland boating community and breaking down the stereotype that the river is an exclusive space. All of this is offered at no cost to participants thanks to grants, sponsors, and crucial support from private donors like you.

MEMORIES FROM SUMMER

SAILING SKILLS YOU LEARNED?

How to drive the boat and read the wind
All the points of sail
Capsizing is not that bad!

MEMORABLE MOMENTS?

Feeling the wind
Getting compliments from the coach
Just being out on the water

LIFE SKILLS LEARNED?

Teamwork & communication
Overcoming fear
Taking time and having patience
Being ok with not being in control
Being calm under pressure
How to make a mud pit on the beach and that mud does not wash out of your clothes easily!



2007



▲ OYSF was founded to support and promote the revival of high school competitive sailing in the Portland area.

2011

▲ The Youth Development Fund is created to support and expand programming throughout OR.

2013



▲ WSC Capital Campaign launched for a state-of-the-art sailing center on the Willamette; completed in 2017.

2014

▲ Youth Sailing Equipment and Travel Reimbursement Fund created.



2017

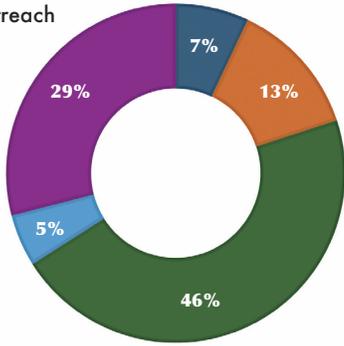


▲ Collegiate Sailing Fund created and Sustainable Sailing Campaign initiated for junior fleet replacement.

▲ Yaquina Bay Yacht Club grant awarded for new youth boats in Newport, OR.

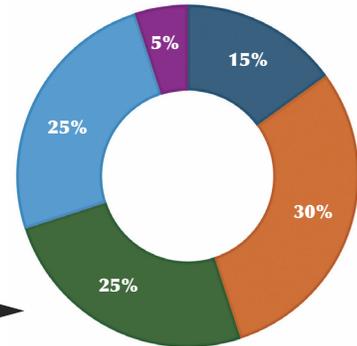
2025 — GIVING — LIFETIME

- Administration & Outreach
\$4,333
- Fundraising
\$7,759
- Community Sailing
\$27,530
- Collegiate Sailing
\$2,808
- Program Support
\$17,727

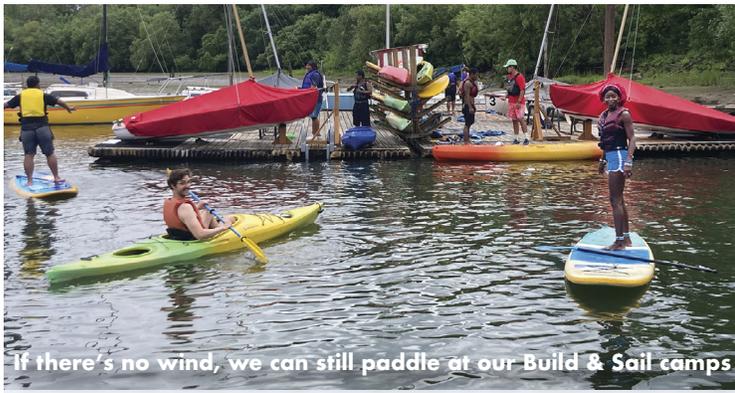


2025 year to date and more to go with your help

Percentage of giving on nearly \$1,000,000 since 2007



- Equipment
- Facilities
- Community Sailing
- Administration & Outreach
- Coaching & General Program Support



If there's no wind, we can still paddle at our Build & Sail camps



IRCO's Slavic and Eastern European Center enjoying the sun

THANK YOU TO A LIFETIME OF SUPPORTERS!

GRANTEES

- Columbia Gorge Racing Association
- Eugene Yacht Club
- Gorge Junior Sailing
- Gorge Sailing Team
- Lewis & Clark College
- Oregon Boating Foundation
- Oregon Corinthian Sailing Association
- Oregon Maritime Museum
- Oregon State University

- Portland State University
- RiversWest Small Craft Center
- University of Oregon
- Willamette Sailing Club
- Yaquina Bay Yacht Club

GRANTORS

- Jackson Foundation
- Multnomah Athletic Club
- NW Yacht Brokers Association
- Oregon Association Education Service District
- Oregon Community Foundation
- Oregon State Marine Board
- TK Foundation
- US Sailing

SPONSORS

- Ancora Publishing
- Columbia Sportswear
- Polar Seltzer
- Portland Yacht Club
- Schooner Creek Boat Works
- West Coast Sailing

- Coalition of Black Men
- Fulbright Program
- Girls, Inc.
- Gym Space Equity
- Imagine Possibilities
- iUrban Teen
- Latino Network
- Metropolitan Family Services
- Neighborhood House
- Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center
- St. Andrew Nativity School
- Sea Scouts
- Self Enhancement, Inc.
- Ukrainian Foundation
- Wind & Oar Boat School

COMMUNITY SAILING PARTNERS

- African Youth Community Organization
- Blueprint Foundation
- Camp ELSO
- Center for African Immigrants and Refugees

2018

2019

2020

2022

2024

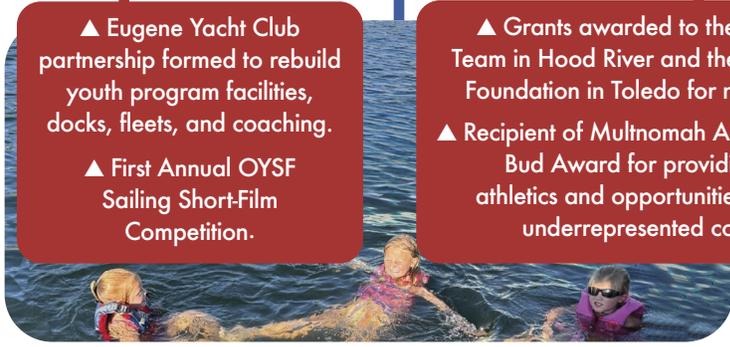
- ▲ OYSF Community Sailing Program established with afterschool sailing in Portland and summer sailing in Cascade Locks; jump-started by a multi-year grant from the TK Foundation.
- ▲ Peer Mentorship program began for experienced youth sailors to earn travel support in return for training the next generation of sailors.

- ▲ Eugene Yacht Club partnership formed to rebuild youth program facilities, docks, fleets, and coaching.
- ▲ First Annual OYSF Sailing Short-Film Competition.

- ▲ Grants awarded to the Gorge Sailing Team in Hood River and the Oregon Boating Foundation in Toledo for new youth boats.
- ▲ Recipient of Multnomah Athletic Foundation's Bud Award for providing access to athletics and opportunities to youth from underrepresented communities.

- ▲ OYSF joins Wind & Oar to start Build and Sail summer camps to provide summer learning during the pandemic.
- ▲ Columbia Gorge Racing Association grant funds allocated to improve facilities in Cascade Locks.

- ▲ Repeat recipient of Multnomah Athletic Foundation's Bud Award.



Enrich the lives of Oregon youth by sharing the joy of sailing!

Donate @ OregonYouthSailing.org



Perfect summer conditions in the Gorge



UrbanTeen checking out the Schooner Rose

“Opportunities like this open doors that some students never imagined were there.”

“Everyone was blown away by the experience. I'm sure this will be a core memory for many of the kids because most of them have never even been on a boat before!”

“Along the way, they picked up more than sailing skills; they discovered new possibilities and pathways in a field many had never considered.”

OYSF INITIATIVES

DEVELOPMENT – Supporting and enabling sailors with equipment, travel, coaching and mentorship funds.

OUTREACH – Raising awareness with online and printed resources as well as sponsorships and organizational support for Oregon programs and events.

COMMUNITY – Increasing access through our Community Sailing Program and contributing to similar projects.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Providing places to sail by funding facilities and boats for programs throughout the state.

ONGOING MAJOR PROJECTS

COMMUNITY SAILING PROGRAM – provides free sailing and job training to students in the Portland area with limited river access.

SUSTAINABLE SAILING CAMPAIGN – for fleet replacement throughout Oregon.

COLLEGIATE SAILING FUND – sustains college sailing in Oregon by supporting coaching, travel and program costs.

EQUIPMENT FUND – accepts cash and in-kind donations to provide equipment for youth sailing programs.

2025 OYSF TEAM

Ashley Lund, *President*

Woody Blackford, *Secretary*

Matt Sprick, *Treasurer*

Tavie Keo, *Board Member*

Sara Morrissey, *Board Member*

Mike Rees, *Board Member*

Dean Yioulos, *Board Member*

Matt Berger

Executive Director

Zoe Carlson

Program Coordinator

Piper Easton

*Social Media & Outreach
Coordinator*

PAST BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Conerly

Sue Drake

Bill Hughes

Marilyn Hodson

Phil Krug

Dean Runyan

Ron Runyan

Dave Sexton

Nick Stockton

Allan Warman

George Yioulos



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