a non-profit for the future of sailing

OYSF aims to keep sailing alive and active in Oregon by making it accessible to young people, with a focus on those who otherwise would not have the opportunity to be on the water. The programs we support connect youth to the joy of sailing and the life skills and confidence it helps build.

OREGON YOUTH
SAILING FOUNDATION

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

ANNUAL COLLEGIATE SAILING GRANTS for Portland State University, Oregon State University and University of Oregon to help with coaching, travel, and fleet repair. These club teams practice on Fern Ridge Reservoir in Eugene and on the Willamette River in Portland and belong to the Pacific Coast Collegiate Sailing Conference.

COACHING SUPPORT FOR SEARS CUP youth keelboat teams and sponsored the qualifier regatta at Island Sailing Club in Portland. Two teams of four from Willamette Sailing Club practiced for months, participated in the qualifier and one team advanced to the championship in Connecticut, finishing 9th in the nation.

PERPETUAL SPONSOR OF THE WIND CLINIC at Columbia Gorge Racing Association in Cascade Locks. Each year, 75+ junior sailors ages 8-17 get two weeks of heavy air training with elite coaches in the world-class Columbia River Gorge. This venue offers some of the most exciting and scenic sailing in the PNW.

FLEET EXPANSION FOR GORGE SAILING CENTER in Hood River. Sponsored the purchase of a SailQube dinghy to help complete their junior fleet fundraiser. This is Oregon's second largest learn-to-sail program and the venue also hosts the high school Gorge Sailing Team.

PARTNERSHIP WITH EUGENE YACHT CLUB raising funds to repair and expand fleets and facilities. This is a long term collaboration to increase programming for their annual summer Sail Camp and Eugene Parks & Rec classes.

MONDAY NIGHT OPEN SAILING IN HOOD RIVER is a community sailing event held weekly at the Hood River Marina during the summer sailing season. Delivered free to 350+ kids and their families annually; run by the high school Gorge Sailing Team and sponsored by OYSF.

COMMUNITY SAILING AND BOAT BUILDING SUMMER CAMPS delivered each summer at no cost to 100+ students over 350 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.

SUPPORT FOR WILLAMETTE SAILING CLUB learn-to-sail Program Coordinator and Head Opti coach to grow summer programs and sustain their team for 8-12 year olds. Camps and teams saw record enrollment this year and WSC sailors participated in more PNW events than ever before.

LAUNCHED COOS BAY YACHT CLUB PARTNERSHIP to grow junior sailing in Southern Oregon. Provided funding to expand their high school fleet and sponsored a clinic and regatta for Coos Bay sailors to compete in their first ever regatta on Vancouver Lake in WA.

US SAILING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION funding for two sailors who came through our Community Sailing Program and one sailor from Portland State University's team. We also provided a stipend for two Community Sailing students who returned as Coaches in Training.



Gorge Sailing Team going very fast with OYSF sails



Eugene Yacht Club's Sail Camp on Fern Ridge Reservoir

FLAGSHIP COMMUNITY SAILING PROGRAM



Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center at the helm



Slavic and Eastern European Center rigging up

Build & Sail Camps run in partnership with OYSF and Wind & Oar Boat School, offer training to youth from traditionally under-represented communities in the Portland area. These camps give teens the chance to learn valuable 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 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. In 2026, two past participants became certified full-time sailing Coaches and two others became Coaches in Training.

In addition, OYSF welcomed five other community partners for group sailing classes. All of this is offered at no cost to participants thanks to grants, sponsors, and crucial support from private donors like you. The success of this program has meant increased diversity in the local boating community and breaking down the stereotype that the river is an exclusive space.

2026 COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

8 WEEKS OF BUILD & SAIL CAMPS

iUrbanTeen
Immigrant Refugee Community Organization
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center
Latino Network

10 DAYS OF PRIVATE SAILING CLASSES

African Youth Community Organization
Slavic And Eastern European Center Oregon
Parkrose Middle School
Roots of Change
On the Move

PEER MENTORSHIP WITH TEAM SALTINE & OYSF OUTREACH COORDINATOR PIPER







OYSF Peer Mentors Sam Hopper and Piper Easton (far left) joined by their J/24 Worlds crew, the junior women's Sears team practicing on the Columbia, and our Sears Cup qualifiers representing at the national championship in Connecticut.

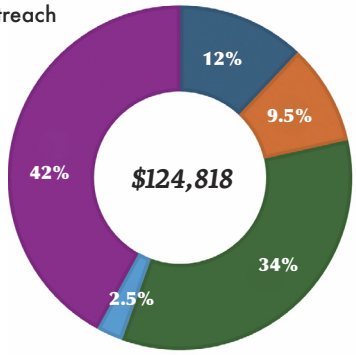
As sailors who grew up on the Willamette River, we understand firsthand the impact that access to sailing, mentorship, and community support can have on young sailors. Today, *Team Saltine* is proud to give back to the programs that helped shape us by sharing our boats and coaching the next generation.

Over the past two years, our team has worked to make sailing more accessible while continuing to compete at the highest levels of our sport. We are two-time J/24 Youth World Champions and in 2025 and 2026, we coached two, four-person Portland high school sailing teams preparing for keelboat racing. We dedicated five Friday evenings and additional race days to practicing, preparing the boats, and helping sailors develop the skills and confidence to perform at their best. In partnership with Willamette Sailing Club, Island Sailing Club, and Oregon Youth Sailing Foundation, we also hosted the Sears Cup PNW youth keelboat qualifying regatta.

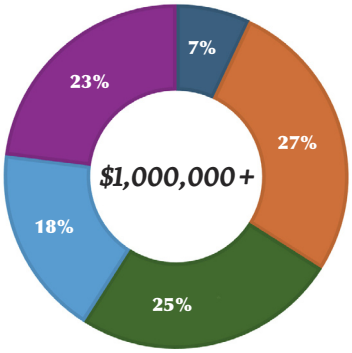
We are grateful for the community that helped us get here and are committed to ensuring that the next generation has the same chance to learn, compete, and grow through sailing. **—PIPER**

2026 — GIVING — LIFETIME

- Administration & Outreach $15,019
- Fundraising $11,813
- Community Sailing $42,323
- Collegiate Sailing $3,193
- General Program Support $52,470



This year we surpassed $1,000,000 of giving since our founding in 2007!



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

INAUGURAL GALA SUCCESS

On April 11th, we hosted our first gala at the scenic Portland Yacht Club in support of our Community Sailing programs. The enthusiasm was overwhelming! We raised enough to run our programs in 2026 and make a significant impact on solidifying the future. The night began with cocktails, a silent auction, and sailing games hosted by youth sailors on the patio overlooking the Columbia River. After dinner in the ballroom was a presentation on OYSF programming, a live auction of the biggest ticket items, and a paddle raise in direct support of our Build & Sail summer camps.

This event exceeded all of my expectations, and it was entirely due to such a generous community of supporters. Special thanks to our MC Doug Schenck for making the night as hilarious as it was inspiring, our table sponsors for making the venue possible, and to our incredible Outreach Coordinator Piper Easton for filling the room with such wonderful people and making the dream come to life. We couldn't have done it without you!

With sincere gratitude,
Matt Berger, OYSF Executive Director









SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT GALA: APRIL 10, 2027

PROGRAM COORDINATOR & COACH ZOE



I am a lifelong sailor and longtime coach from Massachusetts entering my second year as Program Coordinator for OYSF. I also serve as Head Opti Team Coach and Program Coordinator at Willamette Sailing Club (WSC). These roles have kept me busy writing grants, growing OYSF's Community Sailing Program, running a team for 8-12 year olds, and helping manage the largest learn-to-sail program in the PNW.

I grew up in a family of sailors and spent my childhood around water. Sailing gave me a community, career, and an outlet for competition. Introducing new sailors to the sport and getting people connected to the river is personally and professionally rewarding.

In 2026, my team at WSC saw record enrollment and our sailors participated in more PNW clinics and regattas than ever before. The gala and grant writing also set OYSF records for fundraising and our Community Sailing program delivered countless hours of rewarding experiences to new sailors who were thrilled to be on the water. Despite running through the center of the city, the Willamette is an unfamiliar place to many Portlanders. I feel lucky to work with young people and help them discover the beauty and joy of this river.

—ZOE

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

Donate at OregonYouthSailing.org



"My favorite part was sailing when there was a lot of wind."

"You can apply sailing to life by learning to prepare."

"You learn teamwork because you need to communicate."

"I learned that when you need help, ask around."

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.

THANK YOU TO A LIFETIME OF SUPPORTERS

GRANTEES

Columbia Gorge Racing Association
Coos Sailing Foundation
Eugene Yacht Club
Gorge Sailing Center
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
Huser Fire Fighting Equipment
Island Sailing Club
Polar Seltzer
Portland Yacht Club
Schooner Creek Boat Works
Top Mark Tech
West Coast Sailing

COMMUNITY SAILING PARTNERS

African Youth Community Organization
Blueprint Foundation
Camp ELSO
Center for African Immigrants and Refugees
Coalition of Black Men
Fulbright Program
Girls, Inc.
Gym Space Equity
Imagine Possibilities
iUrban Teen
Latino Network
Metropolitan Family Services
Neighborhood House
On the Move
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center
Roots of Change
St. Andrew Nativity School
Sea Scouts
Self Enhancement, Inc.
Ukrainian Foundation
Wind & Oar Boat School

And so many other wonderful donors like you!

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
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

OREGON YOUTH SAILING FOUNDATION