



Santa Cruz Yacht Club

Junior Sailing Program

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SCYC EL TORO SAILING PROGRAM AT PINTO LAKE

Mission

The Santa Cruz Yacht Club El Toro Program at Pinto Lake (the "El Toro Program") will provide a safe, fun environment in which children, aged 8 to 14, may be introduced to the sport of yachting by teaching sailing with an emphasis on personal responsibility, seamanship, and sportsmanship. It will empower each junior sailor to reach his or her full potential as a competent and competitive small boat skipper. It will promote a strong local fleet of El Toro sailing dinghies with opportunities for juniors and seniors to sail together.

Principles

The principles upon which the El Toro Program is based are those of Personal Responsibility, Seamanship, and Sportsmanship. As Skippers, participants will be encouraged to take responsibility for, and be held accountable for, their actions, their gear, and the condition of their boats. As Seamen, participants will be encouraged to learn and practice the fundamentals of good seamanship, including basic knots, terms and their origins, the physical principles of sailing, teamwork, rendering assistance, and evaluating sailing conditions. As Corinthians, participants will be expected to adhere to the highest standards of fair play at all times, and display self discipline with regard to the Racing Rules of Sailing. Their behavior shall conform at all times with the SCYC Junior Sailing Program's Participation Policy and Code of Conduct.

Program Structure and Schedule

The primary venue for the SCYC El Toro Program is Pinto Lake Park, 451 Green Valley Road, Watsonville, CA. However, at times secondary locations may be utilized, both to accommodate inclement weather and to provide a more varied sailing experience. Program participants will be divided into three skill levels: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. A participant's skill level will be determined by the El Toro Program Director. The number of Beginners may be limited by the Program Director to insure an adequate margin of safety and

instructional quality. There is no limit on the number of Intermediate and Advanced participants at this time. Such a limit, or an alternate schedule to accommodate additional boats, may be set by the Program Director if needed.

An integral component of the Program's structure is SCYC's fleet of El Toros. These boats may be chartered for terms of up to two years (if there is no waiting list for boats, a limited extension may be available). Previous charterers are encouraged to continue on in the program in their own or privately chartered boats.

The basic schedule for the EL Toro Program will be three Sundays per month from October through March, and consists of sailing instruction on two Sundays, with a third Sunday of official racing. The days of official racing shall constitute the Santa Cruz Yacht Club El Toro Midwinter Series and shall determine the SCYC Junior Pinto Lake Season Champion. Advanced and Intermediate skippers may, during the months of December through March, attend the Richmond Yacht Club Small Boat Midwinters on the first Sunday of those months, as an alternative to Pinto Lake on those weekends.

Participation Expectations

The instruction and curriculum of the Program builds from session to session, making regular attendance and full participation crucial to a young sailor's progress toward competence and mastery. Prospective sailors and their families are strongly urged to review the Program calendar and expectations before applying.

It is most important that the prospective sailor be interested and willing to engage in the lessons and exercises. While supportive and enthusiastic parents, grandparents and family members are certainly of great benefit, the choice to participate in sailing and this program is best made by the sailor. The Director is available to advise and guide parents on the "fit" of this program to the particular age, maturity, interest and ability of their child.

Participants will be expected to attend and fully participate in sessions at Pinto Lake, SCYC, and other venues. Numerous absences will result in a reevaluation of the sailor's involvement with the program. Participants' families will be expected to support both their sailor(s) and the program as needed and in proportion to their skills and abilities.

Eligibility

It is the intent of the SCYC El Toro Program to be accessible to as many young sailors as is practical. The program is open to all children subject to the following:

- A. Age (8 years old by July 1st., 15 years old after December 31st)
- B. SCYC Junior Membership
- C. Meet Deadlines and Requirements. Applications (forms and fees to SCYC Office) by August 30. Personal Liability Insurance as determined by the JSB. SCYC Junior Membership Dues and Program Fee as determined by the JSB.
- D. Swim Test
- E. Possession of a seaworthy El Toro Class sailing dinghy (under charter or owned). All boats are subject to the approval of the El Toro Program director.

Prioritization

In the event that applications exceed Program limits, or the number of SCYC El Toros available for charter, the priority ranking for enrolling participants and for the allocation of boats will be as follows:

- A. Continuing Participants
 1. Second year charters
 2. First year charters
- B. New
 1. Children or grandchildren of current SCYC Members, and:
 - a. Have had previous small boat instruction/experience
 - b. Are Santa Cruz County residents
 - c. Are not Santa Cruz County residents
 2. Junior Members who are not children or grandchildren of current SCYC Members and:
 - a. Have had previous small boat instruction/experience
 - b. Are Santa Cruz County residents
 - c. Are not Santa Cruz County residents