

Havre de Grace Youth Sailing

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hdgYouthSailing.org



Mid-Term Report for the Havre de Grace Youth Sailing Program

We are happy to report that the Youth Sailing Program is succeeding by every measure. Our class sizes are at historic highs, we have added several boats to our fleet, our new advanced "Performance Sailing" program is on track, and most importantly, parents and students are giving us consistently high marks. The number of returning and repeating students is ever increasing, and our outreach to financially deserving students remains an essential component of our program.

This is our third full season, and we have never been more optimistic for the future. Our pipeline of future instructors is fully in place. Camp students with exceptional work ethics and demonstrated sailing and teaching skills are invited to join our staff as Counselors In Training starting at age 14. Once proven and 15 years or older, the progression is to an Intern position, with greater responsibilities and compensation.

The next step is Associate Instructor and finally Instructor after passing a multi-day United States Sailing Association sanctioned Level I testing program. This year we have our first Instructor that's come from the student population.

How have we progressed so quickly and successfully? Co-founders Rick Wahl, Rick McGregor and Gordon Black, the Executive Committee, pursued a vision to create a positive sailing experience for the youth of our community. The program benefited from a diverse and dedicated working Board of Directors and a cadre of adult volunteers. Members of the Havre de Grace Yacht Club pitched in with time and resources. Yet none of this would have been possible without further contributions from the community.

The Heron Harbor Marina was the site of the initial sailing class trial and demonstration in 2016, thanks to Allen Fair and Wayne Bowie. In our first full year of instruction in 2017, the City of Havre de Grace provided the use of Hutchins Park, with its large tent and associated facilities. Concurrently, the Pensell family offered access and use of the adjacent Tidewater Marina. Another generous contribution came from Bob Brandon, owner of the other adjacent waterfront property and building which serves as our base of operations. A local warehouse owned by the McGregor family has provided winter and overflow storage. The wooden docks used in the first full year of classes were loaned by local businessmen, Chris Scarlato and Nick Conits. In 2018 the city supplemented these docks to enable our growth.

In summary, the Havre de Grace Youth Sailing Program has come a long way, and has a bright future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon S. Black".

Gordon S. Black, Vice President
On behalf of the Executive Committee