



WSASMB Day Sail and Cruise Program

What is the WSA Day Sail and Cruise Program?

These programs match WSA crew members of various experience levels and interests with WSA skippers who volunteer their vessels to enjoy a day (or longer) of sailing together.

Who can participate in WSA Day Sail and Cruise Programs?

All participants must be current WSA Sailing members with a signed waiver form releasing WSA and its board members and chairs of responsibility for your participation. WSA skippers will have had their vessels inspected by the WSA Fleet Captain or other Board designates and will provide proof of registration and sufficient insurance. WSA skippers who volunteer their vessels may bring along one non-member guest at their discretion to help in handling their boat to their specifications.

What is a typical Day Sail?

A typical Day Sail is an afternoon event, held at a specifically scheduled date and time. The Day Sail Chair promotes and matches crew to the skipper who has offered up their boat. A skipper who is offering a sail contacts the Day Sail Chair to convey details of the day's activities. The Day Sail Chair sends an email to the WSA membership offering places on the sail and facilitates assignment and arrival details. Selections and assignments are based on "1st come, 1st assigned" and "rotation among members" to ensure all WSA members have an opportunity to participate in on-the-water activities. Once your assignment is confirmed the Day Sail Chair will send you information that includes the skipper's contact details; time to call if the weather's in question (high winds, rain); boat location; directions to the boat and parking instructions.

There are no fees charged for WSA Day Sails. WSA crew are expected to provide their own lunch, drinks, and a small snack to share. ALCOHOL cannot be consumed while underway on a WSA Day Sail (alcohol may be consumed post sail at dock at the skipper's discretion). WSA Day Sail skippers are responsible for fuel, insurance and other boat operating costs.

Before departure, the skipper conducts a safety briefing concerning how the vessel is operated, where various items are stored, and what to do in the event of a man overboard or other emergency. Each crew member will be asked to provide a name and number of a representative not on the sail to contact in the event of an emergency. As necessary, the skipper assigns crew responsibilities and all pitch in to rig the boat to get it ready to sail.

The vessel typically leaves the dock between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. As the skipper desires, all crew members take turns at various positions, including the helm. Basic sailing terms and techniques may be covered throughout the sail. WSA members are encouraged to build their skills and share their knowledge and chip in to understand and master the responsibilities of various positions. While at sea, everyone enjoys a picnic lunch which is brought by the crew.

On a typical afternoon Day Sail, the vessel returns to the dock between 4 and 6 PM. Upon return, the crew helps stow all the equipment; scrubs down the deck and hull; leaves the boat as nice or nicer than when the day began. The crew may depart once the boat breakdown and clean-up is complete. Occasionally the skipper will invite the crew to join a short after party (happy hour) consisting of drinks and munchies. The crew and/or skipper supply these items for all to share.



What is a typical Cruise?

A typical Cruise is a multi-day and night event, held at a specifically scheduled date and time. The Cruise Chair promotes and matches crew to the skipper who has offered up their boat. A skipper who is taking part in a WSA cruise communicates the number of spots available on their boat and any special requirements or crew needs to the Cruise Chair. The Cruise Chair sends an email to the WSA membership offering places on the sail and facilitates assignment and arrival details. Selections and assignments are based on “1st come, 1st assigned” and “rotation among members” to ensure all WSA members have an opportunity to participate in on-the-water activities.

Before departure, the skipper assigns provisioning duties to one or more crew and conveys special gear needs such as sleeping bags, towels, pillows, etc. WSA cruise crew are expected to share in costs associated with provisioning the boat, mooring or docking fees, and other shore incidentals. WSA cruise skippers are responsible for fuel, insurance and other operating costs.

On the morning of departure, the skipper conducts a safety briefing concerning how the vessel is operated and where various items are stored and safety equipment is located. During this briefing special attention is paid to radio operation, autopilot operation, and engine start and kill procedures. A float plan is discussed and charts are reviewed. Each crew member will be asked to provide a name and number of a representative not on the sail to contact in the event of an emergency. As necessary, the skipper assigns crew responsibilities and all pitch in to load on gear, stow provisions, rig the boat to get it ready to sail.

The vessel typically leaves the dock between 9:00am and 11:00 am. As the skipper desires, all crew members take turns at various positions, including the helm. Basic sailing terms, navigation skills and sailing and motoring techniques are covered throughout the sail. WSA members are encouraged to build their skills and share their knowledge and chip in to understand and master the responsibilities of various positions. While at sea and at anchorages, ports, or on moorings, everyone enjoys meals and happy hours together and participates in group activities as desired. ALCOHOL cannot be consumed while underway on a WSA Cruise (post sail alcohol consumption at mooring, anchor, or dock is permitted at the skipper's discretion).

On a typical 3-to-4-day Cruise the vessel returns to the dock between 4 and 6 PM. Upon return, the crew removes their personal gear, helps stow all boat equipment; scrubs down the deck and hull; leaves the boat as nice or nicer than when the cruise began. The crew may depart once the boat breakdown and clean-up is complete or participate in a post sail happy hour.

How are Cruises scheduled?

WSA does not charter or rent boats for local cruises. WSA schedules Cruises only when WSA-qualified skippers volunteer their vessels for a certain destination, date and time. At the beginning of the calendar year the Cruise Chair will issue a year-long calendar of planned cruises. Cruises will be promoted at the monthly meetings, in the WSA newsletter “Gal’ Warnings”, and via email blasts to the entire WSA membership.

Reserving a spot or getting more information about WSA Day Sails and Cruises:

Send an email to the Day Sail Chair at wsasmbdaysails@gmail.com or to the Cruise Chair at wsasmbcruising@gmail.com.

Every effort will be made to allow WSA members the opportunity to sail and to match members to the skipper/crew of their choice. The cruise chair will ask skippers and crew about their experience and strength and do their best to meet the needs of all. Skippers may request certain crew to balance the sailing expertise on board in the interest of safe operation of the vessel or may decline to take certain members based on the crew's previous behaviour aboard their boat. For safety reasons, most skippers prefer to have no more than one or two novice or physically challenged sailors on board. Please understand that occasionally sails are cancelled due to inclement weather or that you may not be selected as crew on a particular boat on a certain date. Be patient and try again at the next opportunity.

WSA Day Sail and Cruise Program from the original by Inaugural Day Sail Chair, Lindalee Fromm; amended
January 2004 for federal requirements for recreational boats by Fran Weber-Melville;
Feb 2004 for current practices by Julia Westerling, DaySail co-chair;
December 2014 for current practices by Melody Kanschat, Fleet Captain
May 2021 for current practices by Melody Kanschat/Coco Leigh co-Fleet Captains

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