

## Cruising Policy FAQ

- Q: I've been sailing keelboats my whole life do I really need to demonstrate my skills to a Renton Sailing Center Keelboat Instructor?
- A: Yes, the instructor will verify that you can perform the skills that are taught in US Sailing Keelboat curriculum. This is to insure you and your crew's safety and the safety and longevity of the keelboat.
- Q: I have a Bareboat certification, do I really need to demonstrate my skills to a Renton Sailing Center Keelboat Instructor?
- A: Thank you for taking time to get sailing training. A bareboat certification prepared you for your checkout sail with an RSC instructor. You will learn the location and use systems specific to that keelboat and the location and use of the required and recommended safety equipment.
- Q: What Kind of Insurance Does Renton Sailing Center Have?
- A: Renton Sailing Center is a US Sailing Accredited Community Sailing Center and Keelboat School allowing us to qualify for Burgee Program Insurance. It is a one-of-a-kind product for Community Sailing programs like ours. You can read more about Burgee Program Insurance at <https://gowrie.com/USSailingPrograms/BurgeeProgram.aspx>
- Q: The Cruising Policy states that swimming, trips ashore and other activities are not covered under the Burgee Program Insurance.
- A: Yes, there are many activities that you may enjoy doing while out cruising. It is recommended that Skippers and their Crew all have health insurance and personal liability insurance to cover more possible circumstances. You may already have personal liability insurance with your homeowners or renter's insurance.
- Q: I only want to do an overnight trip on Lake Washington do I need to get signed out through a cruising level of the sign out sheet?
- A: The cruising levels of the checkout sheet cover things like setting anchors, taking ranges, scope, tying up in a slip, towing the dinghy and more. These also apply to an overnight cruise on Lake Washington.
- Q: I only want to sail over to Blake Island for the weekend. Do I have to get signed out through the Cruising level.?
- A: The cruising level of the signoff form covers vertical clearance of bridges, locking through, tides, tidal currents and other critical information that you will need for such an excursion.
- Q: What is the bar for understanding navigation, tides, and currents?
- A: Skippers are expected to have the skills found in a Bareboat Certification along with Tides and Currents understanding from a Coastal Navigation Certification for the strong tidal currents locally. These certifications can be obtained through a US Sailing or American Sailing Association

certification course. Whether you obtain this knowledge through a certification or not it will need to be assessed by an RSC keelboat instructor during your checkout.

Q: What are the geographical limits of the "Central Sound"?

A: The Central Sound is the area of Puget Sound north of the Tacoma Narrows and south of Admiralty Inlet.

Q: The policy states that an RSC member family can use the boat for cruising for 8 days and 7 nights in a given year. Do I have to do it all at once or can I break it into a couple weekend trips?

A: You may break it into several weekend trips for a total of 8 days annually.

Q: It seems like Renton Sailing Center has set a high bar for using keelboats. Do other Sailing Centers do the same?

Q: Yes, any sailing center or sailboat charter company will require the skipper to have sailing certifications from US Sailing or American Sailing Association for the type of boat and cruise they are planning, have a resume of recent applicable sailing experience as skipper and crew, and will require the skipper to do a checkout sail on the boat they are using. RSC wants to ensure that members and vessels are safe.

Q: Do I really have to get signed off on "Advanced" on the small dinghies to be a skipper on the keelboats?

A: Yes, being a good dinghy sailor will make you a better keelboat sailor. A light dinghy is much more forgiving than a keelboat the first time you get stuck on a lee shore.