

My experience in Sailing Camp

Day one July 9th

Today was my first day at Sailing Camp. I have been sailing my whole life with my Pepa, (Ron Weiss) and have recently been in three of the regular sailing sessions RYC provides sailors.

Today we went straight to sailing. The wind was perfect for the first day of Sailing Camp. There were seven people in the camp, so five people got to use the Opti's, and the oldest boy and girl (fifteen and seventeen) used one of the 420's. We were planning to go out to practice tacking and sailing down wind. I am pretty good at doing that from past years experience, although practice wouldn't hurt. Once we were comfortable doing this, we headed out towards the green buoy. A lot of people got stuck at the mouth of the harbor, but Spencer and Nicole were always there to help us. I feel safe when I sail, knowing that they will always be there if I need help.

Once we got out onto the big lake, the waves started rocking our boats back and fourth. Off in the distance I see the two people in the 420 start to tip and realized that they capsized! I don't think they work so well together. During the whole sail, they capsized three times.

Although it was a fun sail, I got soaked! At least we could go inside, eat lunch, and dry off. The lunch that RYC provided us was either a turkey sandwich or a ham sandwich. They also packed us some starbursts! Yummy! My new friend and I started to make towers with the starbursts. After that we headed out to sail again.

For the rest of the day we were practicing tacking and going down wind. While we were sailing on the river near the Main Street Bridge I saw my Grandpa sailing his boat Z-Rae! I can't wait for tomorrow to come.

Day two, July 10th

Today, Spencer and Nicole told us that we were doing a scavenger hunt! We got a list of stuff we needed to find and we were off searching. All of the materials that were on land were around the Yacht Club. I found my sail and dagger board. The only thing I didn't have was my sprit and rudder. The sprit was the hardest to find. They hid it in the corner of a fence! It was really hard, because the sprit blended in with the color of the fence. The rudder was located in the water tied to a buoy! My friend and I didn't want to go in the water so we asked the boys to get it for us. Once I found all of the sail boat parts, I rigged the boat and headed out to find the objects in the water.

Once I found numbers one through six and the 'Sweetish Fish', (the objects we needed to find were in the water) Nicole secretly handed me a water balloon. I threw it at one of the kids in the class.

After we went inside to eat, we took a bumpy ride over to the beach. It was really hard because when you got close enough to shore, you had to take out your dagger board and rudder so you wouldn't get stuck in the sand. Some of the kids and I played games in the water like trying to jump over the waves and Marco Polo. When we done at the beach, we got the pieces of our sail boat back in and headed back to the harbor.

Day three, July 11th

When we came into class today, Spencer and Nichole handed us each a bag filled with big red straws and lots of tape. We were making can-amarans. Can-amarans are mini catamarans made out of cans. It took us a while to build and make adjustments, but we were all satisfied with our boats when we finished. We let them sail off one of the piers. Then we could catch them on the other pier that they were floating to. They were really fun to build and watch. At the end of the race, I got 3rd place.

We also sailed bigger boats. The boys got to sail in the Cal 20 and the girls got to sail in the Hunter 22. We sailed around the lake for awhile. When the two sail boats got close to each other, Spence jumped on to our boat! I guess he needed a break from the four boys. When it was time for lunch, Spencer jumped back on the Cal 20 and headed back to the harbor.

Everyone got into the chase boar and headed to the restaurant, Spinnakers. We had very good pizza there. After that we sailed all the way to the Lighthouse and back. The whole time we were on the boat, I had my shoe in my hand because of how many spiders were on the boat. At least it was a fun sail.

Day four, July 12th

Today everyone (besides Spencer who was going to be in the chase boat) was going to be sailing in the Hunter 22. We sailed all the way to the Lagoon. Once we got there we went swimming. The water was freezing!! I got out, but all of the boys stayed in the water playing football and Frisbee. When everyone was done swimming we had lunch, and sailed all the way to the Sugar Shack to get ice cream! I got Moosetracks. When we were done, we headed back to the harbor. It took a long time to sail to the Lagoon and back, but it was fun.

Day five, July 13th

Today we were playing the watermelon game. The object of the game (while sailing) is you have to try to pick up a watermelon that is floating in the water. The hard part is that they greased up the watermelon so it was hard to pick it up!

Two other people and I were in a 420 and the other three boys were in the other 420. When we started sailing it was a race to the first watermelon. The boys got it first. Nicole threw in another watermelon! We got it before the boys. We kept playing the game until it was time for lunch.

Since it was the last day of Sailing Camp, we had a cookout! Spencer cooked us all hamburgers. One of the boys brought a steak for Spencer to cook for him. We then got to eat the watermelons that we were playing with earlier. It was all very good.

After we ate, we sailed all the way to the beach to go swimming. Spencer and Nicole anchored the chase boat, and we had to sail to them. It is way hard, because we had to tack to get to them. The first time we tried we got stuck in the wind. We tried again and finally got to them.

We started swimming while the boys tried to get to the chase boat. We were waiting for a very long time. When we finally got impatient, Spencer dropped Nichole off in the boy's boat so she could help them. I don't think it was a good idea to let three boys go in one boat alone.

While we were swimming the sky started to get cloudy. We could also see that it was raining in the distance. We hopped into our boats and headed back to towards the harbor. While we were sailing the wind died so Spencer towed us with the chase boat. Right when we got the boats out of the water, it started to rain. Overall, today was one of my favorite days.

I am glad that my Grandma and Grandpa sign me up every year to go sailing. I always have fun and enjoy all of the fun activities that Spencer and Nicole plan for us. I also enjoy using the different boats. I had a great time this year and am excited for next year to come.

Zoie Rae Weiss