

# SAIL SAND POINT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### **SAIL SAND POINT**

is Seattle's Community Boating Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to bringing the joy and life-enhancing benefits of sailing and small boats to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.



# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS ON THE WATER

Sail Sand Point celebrated its 25th year with a focus on reimagining youth, adult, and group programming. With the support of spectacular volunteers, staff, and countless donors, Sail Sand Point was able to offer more programs to a diverse range of community members and share our joy of sailing and small boating with many friends, new and old. What began in 1998 with a group of six families trying to build a more accessible sailing community has grown into a nationally recognized nonprofit community boating center dedicated to removing barriers that have historically kept people off the water.

## CAMPS & CLASSES

With a total of 489 youth participants, Sail Sand Point awarded 38 youth scholarships worth \$19,000 to sailors, ensuring no one was excluded due to cost. Adult programming yielded 79 classes this year, teaching 783 adult participants, and providing \$2,325 in scholarships to 10 sailors.

## OPEN BOATING

Open Boating allows anyone to rent a sailboat, paddle board, kayak, or windsurfer from Sail Sand Point. Our helpful Open Boating staff gives sailing advice and safety reminders from our lakefront dockmaster desk! We saw 11,000 Open Boaters rent a boat or board from us and sold 445 annual passes!

## SAIL SAND POINT RACING

Middle School, High School and Summer racing programs continue to flourish at Sail Sand Point as we remain a hub for competitive youth sailing in the Pacific Northwest. This year we hosted 9 regattas including Octoberfest, with 184 participants, and the Cascadia Cup, with 280 participants!

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 14,418**

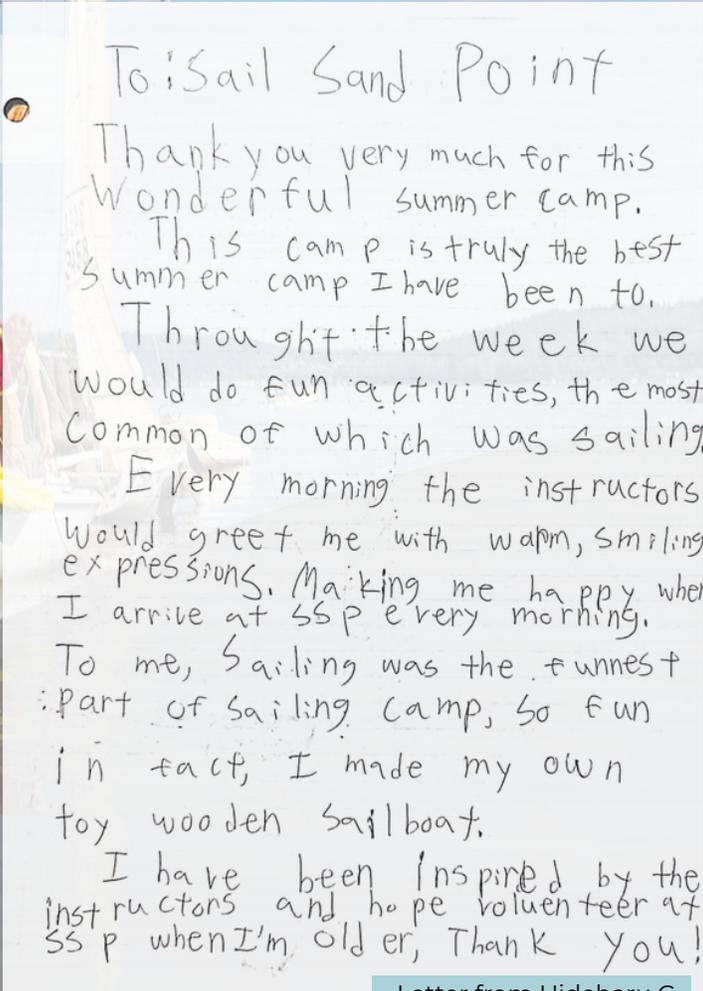
**\$36,900**

AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$316,472**

**IN TOTAL PUBLIC BENEFIT\***

\*As assessed by Seattle Parks & Rec. Public Benefit Guidelines



- Letter from Hideharu G.

# GROWING COMMUNITY ON THE LAKE

Sail Sand Point's Leeway program collaborates with organizations, local and regional, to provide a fun, educational day on the lake to children and adults in historically underserved communities. We offer scholarships to all groups, helping to ensure no one is excluded from the water due to limited resources.

In addition to our Leeway groups, Sail Sand Point continued to offer programs for First Mate, Bowline and Fender Groups. with each group ranging in ages, abilities and backgrounds! More information is available on our website.

“ It has been so wonderful to have had a spot to keep my boat there at Sail Sand Point. In short, I had a hard time living in Seattle. I’m a small town kind of a guy. SSP was an oasis where I could find the tranquility that I needed. I had some beautiful days on the water and I’ll never forget the peaceful sunsets as I pulled my boat out of the water and put it away for the night. I just wanted to say thank you and to say what a wonderful resource SSP is in the community.

- Zach R.

”

This year, Sail Sand Point hosted 24 free events for the public. The Season Kickoff got everyone excited about summertime paddling and sailing, and three full-moon sails kept the fun going all season long. Community barbecues allowed local community members and SSP sailors to connect, and volunteer work parties gave those who were new to SSP a chance to engage with volunteers who had been coming by for decades.

**40**  
GROUP PROGRAMS

**637**  
Total PARTICIPANTS  
On the Lake

**44**  
DAYS  
of Fun & Learning for Groups

SCHOLARSHIPS  
Covering  
**94%**  
of Leeway Program Costs

**24**  
Free Community Events

**74**  
Total VOLUNTEERS  
logging over

**2150**  
Hours

Sitting here at Sail Sand Point alone on a rainy day in December, my view out the window couldn't be more different from the view in July. Today the fog lays low, the lake is still and the only visitors are dog walkers and that one guy who always rows his trimaran around in the winter--another cycle complete.

A few months ago however, this was a totally different view. In July, SSP was hopping! The office was abuzz with instructors planning classes and grabbing radios, parents dropping off lunches, people asking about spaces in boatyard, and all manner of sailors checking the breeze and swapping lies. Outside there were the sounds of kayaks and SUPs being inflated, as people rigged sails, washed hulls, swam and took to the lake in boats, boards and "foiling everything's". And there was never a dull moment as someone always needed a hand launching, kids sought a band-aid, and that one "overly festive" college kid on the inflatable unicorn needed a tow home. All part of a thriving community sailing center!

Last summer was marked by our most successful event ever, our 25th Birthday Party. A high point for me was when King County Council Member Rod Dembowski spoke. He eloquently called out something we all know-- that sailors are different! SSP doesn't just help people learn to sail he said, we "teach lifelong skills like confidence, cooperation, team work and healthy lifestyles". It was rewarding to hear an elected official who really gets the value of our work and appreciates the place we steward.

2023 was special. This year through all our programming, we hosted over 14,418 participants --beating our internal goal. Additionally, we completed a project measuring our demographics and were delighted to see the true diversity of our community as inclusion is one of top goals. This year we saw part time staffers and volunteers new and old really step up for SSP as we struggled to find full time people in a competitive job market. Seasonal staff added hours, qualified volunteers taught intro classes, senior staff wore many hats, and many young instructors showed maturity, grit and flexibility—and together we delivered. And, after a long search, we finally found and hired a new Groups Manager and a Head Coach of Racing with big plans for programs in 2024.

And lastly, you'll begin to see improvements around the site as work began in earnest on plans to develop new spaces and repair aging assets on our campus. The new ADA- accessible ramp to the floating docks which we built will greatly improve access, entire new areas of the boatyard are accessible and soon, new facilities will begin to activate. So, here's to another year at SSP!

# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I'm excited for the future and grateful to have you all by our side!



Seth Muir  
Executive Director, Sail Sand Point

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