



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission: Hudson River Community Sailing develops leadership and academic success in underserved New York City youth through sailing education and provides maritime education and recreation to the community at large.

Preparing Students to Succeed on the Water, in the Classroom, and Beyond

HRCS believes sailing is a powerful activity that can tap students' inherent potential and help them succeed. Both independent and intensely collaborative, sailing is built on scientific principles, technical knowledge, teamwork, and a willingness to take on challenges. Within a safe and directed learning environment, students learn to steer, trim sails, rotate through the roles of captain and crew, solve problems, and pursue a common goal. They build confidence, tenacity, and grit.

Sail Academy, HRCS's flagship program, provides youth development, academic enrichment, and leadership education through sailing and boatbuilding to 150 students attending nine NYC public high schools. Research shows that students who participate in quality afterschool programs have higher school attendance and academic achievement, and are less likely to be involved in risky behaviors. Through experiential, leadership-based education, Sail Academy engages students, builds their academic skills, and challenges them to grow.

Students earn academic credit in math and science as they learn to sail and navigate, construct small wooden boats, and study the marine environment. Through our internship program, they have the opportunity to peer teach in our summer camp, help run a working office and marina, and perform boat maintenance and repair. Our **Youth Racing** program brings together a diverse cross-section of both public and private NYC schools to race on the Hudson. It is the first such program of its kind in NYC.

Over their four years, students acquire important job, team, and leadership skills. Sail Academy gives students an academic boost as they enter high school, and then ongoing support through graduation. Its multifaceted approach helps

prepare them for success in college and career. Our partner high schools serve a diverse student body, drawing students from all five boroughs, predominantly from low-income families. Students participate at no cost, which HRCS funds through a combination of individual and institutional donations and grants.

Bringing the City to the Sea

Our **Community Sailing** programs serve a broader constituency, providing access to sailing for the greater New York community. HRCS provides affordable marine education and recreation to other youth-serving organizations and the general public at two NYC locations in Chelsea and Inwood. We manage an adult sailing school that serves over 1,500 people annually, and an adult club with approximately 200 members. This business model allows us to accomplish several important things. It underwrites Sail Academy by covering significant infrastructure and administrative costs. It also provides our youth with a vibrant waterfront experience, contact with urban professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds and careers, and opportunities for meaningful paid internships. Many adults from Community Sailing volunteer, attend events in our youth programs, and race with students, further connecting the two facets of our work.

Soldiers Under Sail is an adaptive sailing program for veterans that HRCS delivers in partnership with the local Veteran's Administration.

In 2016, HRCS was named *Outstanding Community Sailing Program* of the year by US Sailing, the national governing body for the sport. The award is given annually to a program that has made notable contributions to further public access to sailing. HRCS hosts a number of community regattas and corporate events, which draw from partner relationships with organizations and businesses throughout the area.