

Becoming a Cruising Skipper at the DSC

Step 1: Make sure you have completed the following:

- Successfully complete your dayfleet skipper checkout (J22s and Sonars).
- Be a paying, contributing member of the DSC at the Dayfleet Skipper Level
- Have 3 years of recent sailing experience, including aboard cruising sailing vessels with inboard diesel engines - these can be DSC boats or others
- Create a sailing resume documenting your experience and certifications
- Obtain Maryland Safe Boater's License (The easiest way is to take one of the online courses linked [here](#) - the Boat US course is free)

Step 2: Practice for the checkout:

- Obtain experience aboard DSC Cruising boats*
- Become familiar with DSC procedures for docking, departing, systems procedures and routine safety and maintenance checks
- Practice all skills listed on the published Cruising Skipper Checksheet. The checkout is an exam, and candidates will be expected to be fully prepared.

Step 3:

- Reach out to lessons@downtownsailing.org to schedule your checkout with an instructor. There is a \$75 fee for the checkout, to cover the costs.
- You will either pass or receive a Plan of Improvement (POI) detailing exactly which skills need refinement.

Step 3B: Addressing a POI:

- Each candidate will have two "included" POI re-checks
- You will only have to re-test on the skills noted as needing improvement

Step 4: You passed! What's next?

- Purchase the DSC cruising skipper upgrade. (Request an invoice from the office by emailing info@downtownsailing.org)
- Obtain towing insurance and submit proof to info@downtownsailing.org
- Obtain orientations on each vessel by scheduling with the Boat Managers. As orientations are completed, you will receive the ability to check out boats in the Boat Reservation System.

Step 5: Ongoing commitment to the DSC Mission:

- In order to continue the Cruising Education Program, participants must give back through mentoring, boat management, maintenance, etc - find your niche and contribute!
- Cruising Skippers are needed to skipper for DSC Programs such as Member Sails, Full Moon Sails, and Community Programming - please sign up for the events that best fit your schedule!

- All Cruising skippers must submit to an abbreviated skills re-check every two years. Skills list will be published on the website.

* Depending on prior experience, the following options are available at the DSC to obtain the requisite experience and skills required for the checkout:

- Formal cruising classes
- Practice with a buddy - any cruising skipper can help you practice, and mentoring time helps them meet their Volunteer Commitment.
- Attend Member Sails, Women on the Water, Full Moon Sails, etc, to meet Cruising Skippers, gain familiarity with the boats, and build your experience.