



# Mid-Fleet and Cruising Membership Guidelines and Policies

Welcome Courageous Cruising and Mid-Fleet Members! Cruising offers unique opportunities for learning and exploration on the water and we are very excited to provide these to the residents of greater Boston. Our guidelines and policies are designed to ensure the safety of our boats and our sailors. Please let us know if you have any questions about them. Your signed waiver indicates that you agree to abide by all Courageous rules, guidelines and policies.

## **Becoming a Member**

There are many ways to become a Mid-Fleet/Cruising member. Some of our members start from scratch with Courageous and work their way up from Learn to Sail courses through Bareboat cruising; others come with comparable experience or having taken courses elsewhere. In all cases we work with everyone individually to determine their skills and knowledge, and help ensure the best, safest cruising experience for them.

## **Check-Out Process**

### *Cruising Members*

- All Cruising members must possess the skills and knowledge to qualify as a Courageous Green Flag skipper [[click here for the full list of skill requirements](#)]; to be able to transfer those skills to our larger vessels with an inboard engine; and to be familiar and comfortable with larger boat systems.
- All new members must pass and submit the online [Green Flag exam](#)
- All new members must send us a sailing resume and complete a 1-2 hour orientation and maneuvering checkout with a Courageous Instructor.
- Members who have passed a cruising course with Courageous will not need to submit a resume or undergo a secondary checkout upon successful completion of that course.
- Upon successful completion of these steps, members are considered to have a Cruising Green Flag, meaning they can sail to the outer harbor and in heavier conditions on boats with an engine.

### *Mid-Fleet Cruising Members*

- All Mid-Fleet cruising members must possess the skills and knowledge to qualify as a Courageous Yellow Flag member on Rhodes 19's before completing an additional J80 orientation/check-out sail.
- Mid-Fleet Cruising members must complete an engine and docking clinic in addition to the orientation and check-out sail on the J80.

- Members who have passed a Performance course with Courageous are not exempt from the required engine clinic and vessel orientation sail.
- Members looking to sail past the Airport must first pass both the written Green Flag exam and an on-the-water Green Flag checkout (typically completed on a Rhodes 19).
- Adhere to all Courageous member policies and procedures as outlined in the Member Packet.
- In accordance with the policies and procedures laid out in the waiver, no alcohol is permitted on board and no sailor shall be under the influence while aboard.

### *Spinnaker Endorsement for Mid-Fleet*

- Members should attend a spinnaker clinic, Performance 2, and Spinnaker Practice
- Members must book a checkout to become spinnaker endorsed. All members are required to bring their own crew to demonstrate their ability to manage a boat and of mixed skill levels while flying the spinnaker

## Guidelines and Policies

### Reservations

- Members should make reservations for a vessel through the Courageous Member Portal at least 24 hours in advance.
- To ensure equal and fair availability of vessels for all members, Cruising and Mid-Fleet Cruising members may not hold more than **two** reservations at a time.

### Float Plans

Members must [submit a float plan](#) before sailing if they will be going past the Airport.

- Float plans must indicate if a vessel will be docked at any time while away from Courageous.
  - Docks can damage our boats. Any planned docking must be approved by Courageous staff ahead of time.
- Anchoring is only permitted in marked anchorages.
  - Vessels may **not** be left unattended while at anchor. At least one person must stay on the vessel at all times.
  - Vessels may not anchor at Lovells or Brewsters
  - Vessels must use moorings within a mooring field and may not anchor within a mooring field.
- Any changes to a float plan made while on the water must be communicated to Front Desk via phone or radio

### Before Departing

#### *Cruising Members*

Our cruising fleet will be docked at Pier 4 for the 2023 season. There will be staff on Pier 4 who will supervise and facilitate operations for the cruising fleet, ensuring members and guests are prepared for their sail and assist them in departure and docking.

When Cruising members arrive at Pier 4 they should:

- Turn on the radio (found aboard the reserved vessel)
- Hail or call the Front Desk to confirm their reservation and have guest waivers verified

- Retrieve life jackets for all crew
- Review their float plan with the Pier 3 staff for final approval or adjustment
- Members are responsible for reviewing the checklist of equipment aboard their vessel

### *Mid-Fleet Cruising Members*

- When members arrive for their sail, they should check in at the Front Desk on Pier 3.

## **Returning Your Vessel**

- Members must check in with the Front Desk after they return, inspect the boat, and report any issues.
- Any damage to the vessel or equipment must be documented in the damage log immediately.

## **Standard Equipment for Boats**

Members are responsible for checking their boats for necessary equipment before leaving for their sail.

### *Cruising Members*

Each Cruising boat comes equipped with the following items in order to be USCG compliant and prepared for cruising in Boston Harbor. Please check for them before leaving the dock:

- Pump
- Paddle
- Throwable Type 4
- Flares
- Fire Extinguisher
- VHF radio
- Chart of Boston Harbor
- Eldridge
- Navigation rulers dividers
- Anchor

### *Mid-Fleet Members*

Each Mid-Fleet Cruising boat comes equipped with the following items in order to be USCG compliant and prepared for cruising in Boston Harbor. Please check for them before leaving the dock:

- Pump
- Paddle
- Throwable Type 4
- VHF radio
- Chart of Boston Harbor
- Anchor
- A 1 gallon gas can- please retrieve this from the gas locker before departing

## **Dinghy Reservations**

Courageous owns two dinghies that are available for cruisers to bring on sails.

- Overnight cruisers have preference for dinghy use - if, for example, a member takes a cruising boat out for a day sail, they may not bring a dinghy if another member is starting an overnight trip and has not explicitly turned down the use of a dinghy.
- Dinghies will not be automatically included in overnight reservations - members should additionally reserve them on the website to indicate the length of time they are needed.
- Dinghies may be reserved on planyo.
- Dinghies must be placed back on the dock after use.
- Dinghies will have a set of oars, a pump, and tow lines - it is the responsibility of members to return all equipment.

## Overnight Cruises

Overnight cruises are considered to be 2 days and one night aboard the vessel. Members looking to book an overnight cruise must first have completed a Bareboat course, Night-Sailing course, ASA equivalent, or provide a resume for review of prior cruising experience. Having an overnight reserved on the schedule accounts for BOTH allotted reservations for each member. No additional reservations may be held if an overnight cruise has been reserved.

### Guidelines for overnight bookings

- Members looking to book an overnight may have no other reservations on the books. The 2 days of reservations that make up the overnight will constitute as the full allocation of “2” per member.
- Courageous reserves the right to cancel overnights in the event of poor weather conditions in the forecast.
- In the event of an emergency, members are responsible for contacting Courageous directly and may be asked to contact sea-tow for assistance. This will be at the members expense.

### Steps for booking an overnight

1. The member will reserve their desired vessel for two consecutive days through the reservation system
2. Members must submit a float plan to Courageous detailing the itinerary of an overnight cruise five days prior to departure for review. A link to submit your float plan will be included in your reservation confirmation email.
3. The Cruising Team will review the float plan and may make recommendations about the cruise based upon forecast weather conditions.
  - a. All recommendations and/or changes must be headed by the members and an edited float plan submitted before departure.
4. The cruising team will approve the overnight request and email the Adult Program Director, member, and Front Desk when the reservation for an overnight has been approved.
5. Upon arrival; Members departing for an overnight cruise will review the checklist of overnight items prepped by the cruising team.

For overnight trips Courageous will additionally provide an overnight bin that includes:

- Operational propane/or alcohol stove
- Limited set of cutlery, pots, pans, and dishes
- Cleaning supplies

Following an overnight members are asked to:

- Pump out and Fuel up the vessels. We have an account with Mystic Marine fuel dock located just north of the Spalding Rehab building on the west side of the harbor up near the Tobin bridge.
  - Failure to pump out, fuel, or clean, will result in a \$50 fee
- Members are required to clean the interior of the boats after their use. Leave the boat tidy
- Clean all dishes and return them to the “boat bin”
- Leave no personal items or food aboard the vessel

## Booking an Extended overnight

Extended overnight cruises are considered to be no more than 3 days, 2 nights. Each qualified cruising member is allotted one extended cruise per season. Cruising members who wish to reserve a vessel for a cruise longer than one night or outside Boston Harbor must meet the following qualifications:

- Bareboat Cruising certification or equivalent experience
- Coastal Passage Making certification or equivalent experience

Members must additionally provide:

- 2 weeks notice of their trip
- A float plan reviewed and approved by APD and Cruising director

On an extended cruise, members may sail no farther north than Gloucester and no farther south than Scituate. Courageous reserves the right to cancel any extended weekend reservations if the weather is deemed too risky.

All procedures for an extended overnights (booking, returning, etc) will follow the guidelines outlined above for a standard overnight cruise.

## Operating Hours

### *Cruising Members*

- Our Seasonal operation hours for Cruising members are as follows:
    - Monday - Friday: 12:00 pm - 30 minutes before Sunset\*
    - Saturday - Sunday: 10:00 am - 30 minutes before Sunset\*
- \*Closing time is subject to change

### *Mid-Fleet Cruising Members*

- Our seasonal operating hours for Mid-Fleet Cruising members are as follows
  - May 1st - June 30th and August 19th - October 31st
    - *Monday - Friday*: 12:00pm - 30 minutes before Sunset\*
    - *Saturday - Sunday*: 10:00 am - 30 minutes before Sunset\*
  - July 1st - August 18th
    - *Monday - Friday*: 4:00pm - 30 minutes before Sunset\*
    - *Saturday - Sunday*: 10:00 am - 30 minutes before Sunset\*

\*Closing time is subject to change

---

Thank you for taking the time to read through our cruising member guidelines and policies. We know that as cruising members you are ready to pursue new horizons and new challenges. Our policies are meant to help you as sailors realize your goals by preserving our fleet and ensuring it is a resource for everyone.