

Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge

South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America

Program by SailLaser Miami

The South Florida Council, BSA and SailLaser Miami are proud to offer programs for the Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge. The programs are available for Scouts only and have a maximum size of 20 Scouts. If a program does “max out”, your registration will be refunded. Scouts that are interested **MUST** have passed the Swimmer's Test and have passed the First Aid requirements for Second Class Rank. Proof of CPR training is also required for a completion, but it will not prevent you from attending the clinic.

Boy Scout Merit Badge counselors award the Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge after completion of the program and all necessary requirements, **not** SailLaser Miami.

The Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge can be scheduled as a two day consecutive program year round from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please note the course is only available on weekends from June 15 to August 15 due to our summer sailing camp.

The cost per Scout is \$99.00.

Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge SAILING Requirements covered by SailLaser:

Requirement 3. Describe the boat you will be using for the sailing requirement, naming all **major parts and the function of those parts**.

Requirement 4. Before going afloat, do the following:

- b. Explain the **rules of the road** in general and any specific rules or laws that apply to Florida.
- c. Explain how **water conditions, the hazards of weather, and heavy winds** can affect both safety and performance in sailing.
- d. Discuss the **warning signs of inclement weather** and **what to do** should heavy winds develop or a storm approach.
- e. Prepare a **typical float plan**.
- f. Discuss the **proper clothing, footwear, and personal gear** required for small-boat sailing in warm weather and in cool weather. Explain how choosing the proper clothing, footwear, and personal gear will help keep you comfortable and safe while sailing.

Requirement 5. Discuss with your counselor how to **identify the wind direction** and wind indicators. Explain the importance of this task before setting sail.

Requirement 6. Following the BSA Safety Afloat plan, **show that you and a buddy can sail a boat properly**. Do the following:

- a. **Prepare a boat for sailing**, including a safety inspection.
- b. **Get underway from a dock, mooring, or beach**.
- c. Properly set sails for a round-trip course approved by your counselor that will include **running, beating, and reaching**-the basic points of sail. While sailing, **demonstrate good helmsmanship skills**.
- d. **Change direction by tacking; change direction by jibing**.
- e. Demonstrate **getting out of irons**.
- f. Demonstrate the **safety position**.
- g. **Demonstrate capsizing** procedures and the **rescue of a person overboard**.
- h. Demonstrate the procedure to take after **running aground**.
- i. Upon returning to the dock, mooring, or beach, **properly secure all equipment, furl or stow sails**, and prepare the craft for unattended docking or beaching overnight or longer.

Requirement 7. Demonstrate a working knowledge of marlinespike seamanship. Do the following:

- a. Show how to tie a **square (reef) knot, clove hitch, two half hitches, bowline, cleat hitch, and figure-eight knot**. Demonstrate the use of each.
- b. Show how to **heave a line, coil a line, and fake down a line**.
- c. Discuss the **kinds of lines** used on sailboats and the **types of fibers** used in their manufacture. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Requirement 8. Describe how you would **care for and maintain** a sailboat and its gear

Requirement 9. With your counselor, **review sailing terminology and the points of sail**. Discuss various types of sailboats in use today and explain their differences.

SailLaser will also cover boating rules and regulations in the State of Florida.



NON-SAILING Requirements needed for Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge NOT covered by SailLaser:*

Requirement 1. Do the following:

- a. Explain first aid for injuries or illnesses that could occur while small-boat sailing, including hypothermia, dehydration, heat reactions, motion sickness, cuts, scratches, abrasions, contusions, puncture wounds, and blisters.
- b. Identify the conditions that must exist before performing CPR on a person, and explain how to recognize such conditions. Demonstrate proper technique for performing CPR using a training device approved by your counselor.

Requirement 2. Before doing the following requirements, successfully complete the BSA swimmer test. *

Requirement 4. Before going afloat, do the following:

- a. Discuss the nine points of the **BSA Safety Afloat plan**.

*Please note that SailLaser does administer a swim test; however, this is separate from the BSA requirement.



SailLaser provides:

- Small Boats – sailing dinghies
- US Coast Guard approved life jackets, PFD Type III
- Pens, pencils, classroom materials
- Daily Lunch

What to bring:

- A swimsuit or shorts, micro-fiber long sleeve shirt (dry easy) or similar clothes suitable for getting wet
- Footwear (sailing boots, boat shoes or old sneakers but NO FLIP FLOPS). All shoes must be close-toed.
- A hat for sun protection and SPF 30+ sunscreen
- A towel
- A change of clothes (if you want to be dry for your ride home)
- Water or drinks

In order to earn your Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge:

Please present proof of completion of requirements to the South Florida Council; SailLaser will provide a certificate of completion of SAILING requirements for each Scout that completes the program.

To schedule your Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge Program, please contact SailLaser for availability, at least one week prior to your desired date.

For more information on the Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge please contact:

The South Florida Council
Boy Scouts of America
15255 NW 82nd Avenue
Miami Lakes, FL 33016
T (305) 364 0020
F (305) 821 6222
W www.sfcbsa.org

For information on sailing and scheduling please contact:

SailLaser Miami
US Sailing Center
2476 S. Bayshore Drive
Miami, FL 33133
T (305) 285 3442
F (305) 285 3437
W www.sail-laser.com/miami

