

Traverse Area Community Sailing “TACS”

13170 S West Bay Shore Dr, Suite 106
Traverse City, MI 49684
United States

Category: Sailing Coach/Instructor

Part Time and Full Time

Seasonal – Summer Only

Experience Required

Housing Provided: No

Industry: Instructor

Job Start Date: June 2026

Job End Date: August 2026

Job Summary

Traverse Area Community Sailing (TACS) is hiring enthusiastic **Youth Learn-to-Sail Instructors** for Summer 2026! Located on Boardman Lake and West Grand Traverse Bay, TACS has been introducing youth to the joy of sailing for more than 30 years.

Our youth programs serve beginners through emerging intermediate sailors, with the goal of building confidence, independence, and a lifelong love of being on the water. Instructors help students learn fundamentals, practice safe seamanship, develop teamwork, and experience the fun and adventure of sailing.

We’re seeking positive, energetic role models who enjoy working with kids, are passionate about sailing, and want to help create a safe, inclusive, and memorable summer learning environment.

Join us for a rewarding season helping young sailors discover the magic of wind, water, and community!

Positions Available

- **Youth Learn-to-Sail Instructors**

Boats include: Optimis, BICs, Lasers, and 420s

Details

- **Season:** Early June – Late August
(includes setup/orientation and wrap-up weeks)
- **Schedule:** Monday–Friday, with occasional variations for special events
- **Compensation:** Hourly, based on experience; competitive among regional programs, with paid overtime
- **Additional Opportunities:**
 - Private lessons
 - Specialty youth clinics
 - Part-time options may be available

Perks

- US Sailing certification reimbursement
- Opportunity to earn additional income through private lessons
- After-hours use of club boats for personal practice
- Time off for regattas or family needs (with prior approval)
- Supportive, collaborative team culture
- Excellent teaching environment featuring:
 - Low-traffic waters
 - Protected sailing areas
 - Dock-launching
 - Strong community sailing culture

Job Requirements

- Enthusiasm for youth development and sailing education
- 2–3 years of sailing or coaching experience

- US Sailing Level 1 (or higher) Small Boat Instructor certification
- Current First Aid/CPR (can be completed during orientation)
- Safe Sport certification
- Successful background check

Primary Responsibilities – Youth Learn to Sail

- Teach and supervise youth sailing classes for beginner and intermediate levels following TACS curriculum and safety standards
- Foster a safe, fun, and encouraging learning environment
- Introduce and reinforce essential sailing concepts: terminology, boat handling, points of sail, sail trim, tacking/jibing, capsize recovery, and basic navigation
- Support group instruction and assist with private lessons as assigned
- Maintain fleet and facility readiness—including rigging, derigging, boat care, and equipment checks
- Help lead daily and weekly recognition activities and end-of-season celebrations
- Model seamanship, sportsmanship, and positive communication
- Uphold all safety protocols and respond appropriately in emergencies
- Perform additional duties as assigned by the Sailing Director

Qualifications & Competencies

- Strong leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills, especially with youth
- Organized, adaptable, and able to work effectively outdoors in a fast-paced environment
- Commitment to safety and risk management
- Friendly, approachable, and collaborative with staff, parents, and students
- Physically able to lift up to 50 lbs., swim confidently, and work long hours outside

Working Conditions

- Outdoor waterfront environment with varied weather (50°F–90°F)
- Requires standing, walking, lifting, and extended time on the water
- Full-time seasonal schedule (approx. 40 hours/week)

