

Spring Bank Holiday Sailing Week at East Mersea.

Saturday 25th May – Saturday 1st June 2024

If you would like to take up Sailing or improve your existing Sailing skills then consider attending the Sailing Activity Week at East Mersea. We have a team of qualified instructors who will be able to help you. Please apply on the form if you wish to attend, preferably as groups, but individuals can be accommodated as well. The week will suit older Scouts, Guides, Explorer Scouts, Network Scouts and Adults. Scouts or Guides younger than 11 years of age will find the week taxing! The sailing activities during the week will be based on the Dinghy Sailing syllabuses of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). The appropriate RYA sailing certificate(s) will be presented at the end of the week if the course requirements are completed successfully. The week will also give the opportunity for adult leaders and other volunteers to work towards their activity permits sailing on B2 classified water

The week is preceded by sessions at the 1st Hertford Scout Group Headquarters, Marshgate Drive, Hertford, on **either Saturday 23rd March or 27th April** depending upon which course you wish to undertake. These sessions are used to cover some theoretical parts of the RYA syllabi and to ensure that participants undertake the week's activities at the right level for their personal needs. When attending these sessions, participants will need to bring refreshments (lunch) to last them for the day although drinks and biscuits will be available. It is important that everyone should attend these day sessions from 09.30hrs until 16.00hrs.

Those applying for the Instructors Course will need to attend both days. Finishing at 17:00hrs

Those applying to attend the Young Sailors Courses Stages 2, 3 & 4 should plan to attend on Saturday 23rd March.

Those applying for all other courses, or if Young Sailors have notified me that they are unable to attend on 23rd March, should plan to attend on Saturday 27th April.

Specific programmes for these days will be issued in the joining instructions, which will be sent out during the week after the closing date of 10th March with the acceptance notification.

East Mersea Arrangements

The week's activities start at 09.00hrs on Saturday 25th May (High Tide 14.09hrs.) with some rigging and launching of the boats, (note the launching and recovery time to the water will be 1½ hours either side of high water). The setting up of camps should take into account the timing of the launching. The boats will be taken out of the water at the end of the week late on the afternoon of Friday 31st May (High Tide 19.01hrs). Certificates etc. will be distributed after all the boats are recovered and packed away on Saturday morning.

Each person or group will be responsible for their own camping arrangements. There are two campsites suitable for participants on the courses. The first site is Fen Farm, which is a commercial campsite catering for caravans and groups in tented accommodation, mainly families. The site is owned by Mrs. Lord (Tel 01206 383275). Participants wishing to use this site should make their own arrangements with Mrs. Lord as soon as possible, stating that they are with the Hertfordshire Scouts sailing course. Fen Farm is about 1 mile away from the sailing area. Those camping at Fen Farm are able to cycle to the sailing beach having due regard for walkers.

The second site consists of a field near to the launching ramp and facilities at Ivy Farm. Ralph Spence, the farmer, has developed a farm outbuilding into a toilet and shower facility and there is also fresh water available in the field and rubbish disposal facilities. The field is closer to the sailing area than Fen Farm. Those camping may take cars to the tents at the beginning and end of the week. The farmer can usually accommodate some parked cars in the Farmacyard for those who need to go out during the week. Visiting cars will usually be able to park in a temporary compound where Ivy Lane meets the East Mersea road. Every individual or group will have to provide their own camping equipment and be self-supporting. This includes

the appropriate Nights-Away permits being held although groups could make arrangements with other permit holders on the site to ensure Scout Association camping rules are complied with.

Sailing Arrangements

The sailing activities are based at a point known as Mersea Stone, (map ref: TM 073 154) which is a steeply shelving shingle and shell beach on the River Colne estuary opposite Brightlingsea Creek. The beach allows access to the water at all states of the tide. Sailing will start daily at approximately 09.30 hrs. depending upon each sailing group's arrangements, which should allow enough time for visits to nearby shops if necessary. It is possible that some evening sailing sessions may take place, although the sailing will normally finish at approximately 17.30 hrs. The evenings from this time on will be free to enable everybody to cook their evening meals, dry out, sleep etc. As the whole day will be spent sailing, packed lunches should be planned for eating adjacent to the boats on the beach. It is also most important that plenty of warm clothes are taken each day. A limited number of buoyancy aids will be available; however, it is preferable that you bring your own if you have one, if not please book one beforehand at one of the theory sessions.

The cost of the courses is likely to be **£175.00p** which will cover the cost of the week for the use of the boats, certificates and course expenses only. The charge for those camping on Ivy Farm will be approximately **£8.00p** per head per night which should be paid to your Group's leader. Please indicate if you wish to camp on Ivy Farm as the overall limit there is 60 people. If a leader is booking for a group of Scouts or Guides please ensure that a form is filled in for every individual wishing to take part in the week. **The Course fee should be paid by registration online once you have received a letter of acceptance during the week after March 10th.**

It would greatly assist the planning of the week and the courses, if at the time of applying, you could state whether you would be willing to lend or make available any kind of suitable sailing or powered craft for members of the courses to use. We can arrange insurance cover for the craft for the week if boats are not already insured. Additionally it would be useful if you could indicate whether you would be able to help with towing any boats to and from East Mersea.

You will be notified of the final details of the courses approximately a week after the closing date of **10th March**, so, if you do not hear anything after applying for a place, do not worry, just take it that you have been accepted. **The letter of notification of acceptance will include a link to the County Registration portal so that you can confirm your place and pay online before the Course Theory day that you need to attend.** Only if any of the courses are over-subscribed will you be notified about any lack of place allocation.

Please apply for a place early to avoid disappointment!

The various R.Y.A. Dinghy sailing and other courses available to join are described on the separate Course Information sheet.

If you wish to apply for any of the courses, please apply on the application form and send to:

Richard Watson
19 King Edward's Road
Ware,
Herts.
SG12 7EJ
email: richard.watson@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

All applications to be received by Sunday March 10th 2024.

