

## The Youth Sponsorship Programme

1. The programme is called the “Ocean Cruising Club Youth Sponsorship Programme”.

### ***Who can apply?***

2. A person of any nationality between the ages of 18 to 25 years at the time of application is eligible to apply based on these criteria.
3. Applicants are not expected to have experience in long distance sailing, but they will be expected to have had practical experience as a crew member. The Applicant will hold a national certificate of basic sailing competence such as an RYA Competent Crew Certificate or equivalent practical experience.

### ***What is the purpose of the Programme?***

4. The purpose of the sponsorship grant is to contribute towards the Applicant’s cruise costs to complete a single, preferably greater than 1000 NM, ocean passage, consisting of:
  - a. The Applicant’s travel expenses including air fares and travel and medical insurance.
  - b. Their share of expenses while on the ocean passage (but not while ashore).
  - c. The cost of personal equipment such as foul weather gear and other equipment needed for the ocean passage, and
  - d. To pay the Applicant’s first year subscription as a Young Adult Associate Member of the OCC (Currently £35). Such members are not required to pay a joining fee.
5. The sponsorship grant will fund two thirds of the Applicant’s total approved cruise costs up to a maximum grant of £2000 per sponsorship. The grant will be released in two parts:
  - a. The first 70% of the grant total will be released upon a successful application decision
  - b. The second remaining 30% will be paid upon receipt of written or digital media reports (video, images, text, blogs, vlogs) of the voyage/s.

The Ocean Cruising Club will look to share and promote the experiences to raise the profile of younger sailor’s ocean cruising.

6. The amount of each individual sponsorship is at the sole discretion of the subcommittee of the OCC General Committee, made up of the Chairman of the Membership Committee, the Commodore and the Youth Sponsorship Programme Coordinator acting within the constraints of the annual budget for the Programme.
7. The Applicant is required to take out travel and medical insurance, including repatriation costs in the event of illness or injury. The insurance submission should include the countries of origin of the Applicant and Skipper, the flag of registration of the boat and the proposed cruising itinerary.
8. Two or more sponsorship recipients can sail in the same boat, if desired.

9. The recipient of the sponsorship will be required to join the OCC as a Young Adult Associate member and to write an account of the voyage and their experience for the OCC Newsletter or the OCC bi-annual "Flying Fish".
10. It is recommended that the recipient of the sponsorship contact personal references as to the likely compatibility with the Skipper and other crew.

***What is expected of the skipper?***

11. The Skipper of the vessel will be a member of the OCC and will be experienced in long distance ocean sailing with more than 5,000 miles of ocean passage making as Skipper.
12. The Skipper is expected to offer informal tuition in ocean cruising, such as passage planning, navigation and boat maintenance, during the voyage.
13. The Skipper and Applicant will not be from the same immediate family.
14. The Skipper is responsible for ensuring that the boat is seaworthy and safe. The OCC recommends that the vessel complies with safety requirements similar to the Category 1 requirements for the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (the ARC) set by the World Cruising Club.  
<http://www.worldcruising.com/arc/safety.aspx>
15. The Skipper must carry adequate insurance including at least £2 million insurance coverage for third party damage including loss or injury to crew or third parties through the Skipper's negligence.
16. It is desirable for the Skipper and Applicant to meet for an "interview", prior to commitment on either side, ideally by way of a sail together. In addition to providing some comfort as to compatibility, important in a small boat, this gives an opportunity for Skipper and Applicant to discuss and agree on the expectations and aspirations of both participants from the voyage. It is suggested that the Skipper contact personal references of the proposed crew member to discuss compatibility with them and other crew members.
17. It is recommended that, prior to departure, the Skipper is assured of the Applicant's ability to fund their return journey from the expected final destination.

***Administration and Application Process***

18. Applications must be made on a form available on the OCC Website which should be sent by e-mail to the OCC Youth Sponsorship Programme Coordinator. The application requires the Applicant to write a proposal of up to 500 words setting out their experience and reasons for requesting the sponsorship. This will include their expected costs for which the sponsorship grant will contribute up to 2/3 of the amount. The application form can be found at  
<https://oceancruisingclub.org/YouthSponsorship>
19. The sponsorship is administered by a subcommittee of the OCC General Committee (see 6 above) whose decision will be final. The process is conducted by e-mail.
20. The Applicant and Skipper must both agree that participation in the OCC Youth Sponsorship Programme is entirely at their own risk. Neither the OCC and its members nor the Committee nor the Directors of Ocean Cruising Club Limited will be liable (so far as such liability lawfully can be excluded) for any loss or injury suffered as a result of their participation in the scheme.