

## **SMCM Recreational Waterfront Activity Expansion**

As Mark Twain once stated, “It often takes more than three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech.” This is not a speech, though the following proposal and goals have and will be spoken. Over the last two weeks I have been improvising when speaking of my current goal to friends of the waterfront and thinking to myself. Doing so has allowed me to develop a clear vision which is detailed in the following paragraphs. This idea started off as a solution to a problem and it evolved into just that along with what could be part of the foundation, aside from the River and Rowing Centers, of an entirely new beginning for the St. Mary’s College of Maryland waterfront.

If you notice in the included Windsurfing Club informational document, a current problem facing the club is our inability to meet one of our goals: sharing the love of windsurfing by allowing for any interested student to take out equipment. We face a lack of physical capacity of beginner boards and rigs (sails, masts, booms). The unfortunate result of such a situation is primarily experienced during both official and unofficial “Learn to Windsurf (L2W)” events. The solution I propose is to purchase a packaged fleet of versatile one-design windsurf boards and rigs from BIC Sport, through East of Maui Surf Shop in Annapolis at a 40% discount from retail prices. This gear would be used to allow the Windsurfing Club to instruct students during L2W events and more organized lessons. Further more, it would be used just as recreational kayaks and FJ sailboats are currently. This equipment would be the property of all students and not that of the windsurfing club. Strict windsurfing club ownership would be a (less-desirable) option and would not allow for ample recreational use by students.

This Talon Grant application has a distinct focus on windsurfing as a sport. It's overall concern, however, is to promote more waterfront activities at the college. In the short term, a fleet of Techno windsurfers would allow for a larger, more diverse recreational waterfront program at the college, and the ability for the Windsurfing Club to assist in the learning of students. After Rick Loheed, the new Assistant Waterfront Director learns how to windsurf and teach windsurfing, he is interested in offering a windsurfing course similar to the popular sailing course.

One issue for consideration does come into play and it involves storage space. There exists plenty of indoor storage at the waterfront, though some modifications may need to be made. The location of such space exists in the recreational sailing sail storage area and in the Varsity Sailing club room which they are currently moving out of. Therefore, a small amount of additional funding for building materials may be required. This proposal has the full support of Adam Werblow and Rick Loheed. Mr. Loheed has extensive sailing experience and a desire to learn to windsurf, followed by instructing students through an official windsurfing course offered through the college – just as Mike Ironmonger did in the past.

## **Budget:**

<b>Eight Techno Boards Package</b>				
8 x Techno 293OD	BIC Techno 293D One-Design - complete	\$10,392.00	<b>\$7,274.40</b>	
8 x 4.0-6.0 sq. meter	BIC Nova Complete Rigs (4.0m to 6.0m) - Special \$375	\$4,312.00	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	
6 x 3.2 (or 2.5) meter	BIC Nova 3.2m (and/or 2.5m) complete rigs	\$2,274.00	<b>No Charge</b>	Savings
<b>8 boards &amp; 14 rigs Club Package = 40% discount!</b>		\$16,978.00	<b>\$10,274.40</b>	\$6,703.60

<b>Additional Required Gear</b>		<b>MSRP</b>	<b>Each</b>	<b>Total</b>
14 x 3/2mm Wetsuits	3/2mm Wetsuits - for safety and longer season	\$100.00	\$90.00 (est)	<b>\$1,260.00</b>
14 x Booties	Neoprene Booties for protection from oyster shells and warmth	\$38.00	\$31.95	<b>\$447.30</b>
8 x Waist Harnesses	BIC Sport Waist Harnesses	\$100.00	\$80.00	<b>\$640.00</b>
16 x Harness Lines	BIC Sport Harness Lines	\$30.00	\$24.00	<b>\$384.00</b>
Simulator	Dry Land Simulator for basic training	\$500.00	\$350.00	<b>\$350.00</b>
Building Materials	Building Materials for proper storage	\$150.00	\$150.00	<b>\$150.00</b>
			<b>Req'd Gear Price</b>	<b>\$3,231.30</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,505.70</b>
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Plus shipping

## **Goals and Benefits of Funding this Talon Grant Proposal:**

### **Short-term:**

- Ability for the Windsurfing Club to instruct interested students during Learn to Windsurf events and organized lessons,
- A larger, more diverse recreational waterfront program at the college.
- More student enjoying the water and River Center without hesitation or fear of confrontation.
- Another option for students interested in sailing that don't have the experience required or desire to race with one of the sailing teams.
- Happier students
- Excess SGA funds put to good use

### **Long-term:**

- Another option for students interested in sailing that don't have the experience required or desire to race with one of the sailing teams. (repeat)
- A substantial increase in the amount of involvement of student and breadth of options with concern to recreational waterfront activities.
- A for-credit beginner windsurfing course available to students.
- A recreational windsurfing program. Many more windsurfers of all skill levels, as opposed to a small number of skilled windsurfers and another group trying to catch up.
- A collegiate windsurfing program, where the best sailors compete in local races.

### **Potential LongER-term:**

- National recognition of our St. Mary's as one of the premier undergraduate sailing schools, with varsity sailing, offshore, keel boat, and windsurfing teams.
- Allowing for the development of driven sailors like Farrah Hall, the Windsurfing Club's founder who is in the midst of an Olympic campaign.
- St. Mary's as a college which produces world-class windsurfers.