

Two by Twenty-Two Chase Boat Challenge

SISO's youth sailing program has three priorities: 1) Safety, 2) Have Fun, and 3) Learn about Sailing. **The number one priority – SAFETY – encompasses a lot in one simple word.** Our instructors have gone through a rigorous certification program with additional training in power boat safety, prevention of sexual harassment, teaching techniques and coaching fundamentals. Before being hired, SISO instructors are fully vetted through background checks and drug tests. We take the safety aspect of our program very seriously.

One of the most important safety components in a youth sailing program is the availability and operation of safety/chase power boats while the kids are on the water. These power boats provide the ability to respond to a variety of potential emergency situations extremely quickly.

The safety/chase boats are also used as the platform for instructors to teach students once they are on the water. The power boats are essential to stay in close proximity to the students (who seem to enjoy sailing fast). They allow SISO instructors to verbally communicate with the students, coach, monitor skill development, and thus interact effectively with the 10 RS Zest student sailboats on the water.

SISO currently owns two outdated (and sometimes unreliable) powerboats that were acquired through direct donation and purchase in 2019. However, the age, condition, design, and reliability of our existing powerboats is less than optimal. **The SISO safety/chase boats are the weakest element in our safety program. Replacement of these boats has become a top priority.**

SISO has done extensive research and held discussions with similar sailing program leaders across the country to select the best option for our application. We have concluded that the Boston Whaler Montauk 15 with 65 hp jet drive motor (not propeller driven due to proximity of students in the water) is the best fit for our program for many reasons. The targeted package price for two boats, including trailers, is estimated at \$76,000.

Based on a recent commitment by an anonymous donor, SISO is here-by kicking off the Two by Twenty-Two Chase Boat Challenge. This generous donor will match up to one dollar for each additional safety/chase boat dollar donated. There are also naming rights for each boat at the \$25,000 Gold Level. If two major gifts such as this are received, the 'Matching Donor' will fill the gap to reach the \$76,000 goal. Note, as of this printing we have already received a safety/chase boat donation of \$5,500. The ball is rolling! Train has left the station!

This is a major fundraising effort. The amount needed, is more than SISO paid for our entire fleet of sailboats combined! However, the safety/chase boats are our first means of reaching students on the water, and their reliability is paramount to our program's first priority: **Safety.**

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to help support this critical need. Mark your check or envelope "Safety/Chase Boats". Individual tax filers (including married individuals filing separate returns) can claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualifying charities during 2021, **even if you take the standard deduction and don't itemize.** The maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married individuals filing joint returns.

Thank you for your generous support!

