

Lightning Boat Grant Program

What is the Lightning Boat Grant Program?

The ILCA owns two competitive Lightnings that we loan to promising young sailors for the summer sailing season each year. The grantees are selected by a panel of experienced Lightning sailors based on the proposals that each team submits and through an interview process. The grant covers all regatta entry fees, boat insurance, some travel money and we also provide you with a nearly new boat, good sails and a mentor to help get you started. The program provides young sailors, students, or those just beginning their working careers, who can't afford to buy and campaign a competitive 3-person dinghy like the Lightning, with all they need to sail against some of the best racers in the world.

Who should apply?

You should. You and your team must each be at least 19 years old. You should be motivated to try to take on the challenge of competing in one of the most competitive One-Design classes in the US.

What do I get out of the program?

Many of the top one design sailors in the US have a lot of Lightning experience. Tim Healy, Ken Read, Brad Read, Andy Horton, Allan Terhune and Greg Fisher to name a few. You get to augment your college sailing experience with skills that are not normally associated with college sailing. Faster boats, sail trim and rig tuning, spinnakers, shifting gears, longer courses, more tactical and strategic decision making are all part of Lightning racing. You also get to meet a new sphere of sailors who might be able to help you in a broad range of ways after college.

How do I apply?

Go to the ILCA website and look at the Boat Grant Program information. The requirements and application are on line. Get your schedule and team organized. Get three recommendations lined up now. Apply before January 21st of the application year.

For more information:

Check out the ILCA website: <http://www.lightningclass.org> (Racing Tab – Boat Grant Link)

Contact the ILCA office: office@lightningclass.org or (727) 942-7969

or contact any of the following committee members:

Greg Fisher: greg@gregfishersailing.com (Co-Chair)

Ryan Davidson: ryanadavidson@icloud.com (Co-Chair)