US Sailing has named 13 athletes to its 2016 Youth Sailing World Championship Team. The premier youth event in international sailing, the Youth Worlds is expected to include competitors from over 70 nations. The event is set to be held in Auckland, New Zealand from December 14-20.

“A talented and competitive American team has been selected for the 2016 Youth Worlds,” said Leandro Spina, US Sailing’s Youth Development Director. “It takes hard work to develop the skills needed to reach this level, and US Sailing’s Olympic Development Program (ODP) will assist with preparations as we get closer to the event. We are excited to name our team and to help them deliver a peak performance in Auckland.”

US Sailing’s 2016 Youth World Championship Team:

• LaserRadial (girl’s one person dinghy):
  Sophia Reineke (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
• Laser Radial (boy’s one person dinghy):
  Carsson Pearce (Manahawkin, N.J.)
• International 420 (girl’s two person dinghy):
  Kathryn Hall (Haverford, Penn.) and Ashton Borcherding (Greenwich, Conn.)
• International 420 (boy’s two person dinghy):
  Wiley Rogers (Houston, Texas) and Jack Parkin (Riverside, Conn.)
• 29er (girl’s high performance dinghy):
  Louisa Nordstrom (Osprey, Fla.) and Catherine Mollerus (Larchmont, N.Y.)
• 29er (boy’s high performance dinghy):
  Ryan Ratliffe (San Diego, Calif.) and Sam Merson (Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.)
• RS:X (girl’s windsurfer): No Selection
• RS:X (boy’s windsurfer):
  Geronimo Nores (Miami Beach, Fla.)
• Nacra 15 (open multihull):
  Romaine Screve (Kentfield, Calif.) and Ian Brill (San Diego, Calif.)

Learn more about the Youth Worlds Team the US Sailing Team Sperry at www.ussailing.org/olympics.
Nominate Champion Sailors in Your Community for 2016 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year

We all know those unique and talented sailors in our communities who turned in outstanding performances in 2016. Perhaps he or she won a signature regatta at your local yacht club or maybe a member sailor from your organization won a class National, North American or World Championship.

Make sure these sailors get the recognition they deserve by submitting nominations for US Sailing’s Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year Awards.

Each member of US Sailing may nominate the one male and one female sailor who performed at the highest levels during the 2016 calendar year.

Nominations can be made online at rolex.ussailing.org through November 30, 2016.

It isn’t all about winning the award. A collection of nominees will be selected to the shortlist and will be announced as finalists for this annual distinction. The shortlist recognition is a tremendous opportunity for your local sailing community, yacht club or sailing organization, and one-design class association or fleet.

Established in 1961 by US Sailing and sponsored by Rolex Watch, U.S.A. since 1980, the annual presentation of US Sailing’s Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year awards recognize the individual male and female U.S. sailor who has demonstrated on-the-water excellence at international and/or national levels.

WAVES OF CHANGE • OCEANS OF OPPORTUNITIES

Helena Scutt to Keynote at NSPS 2017

2016 Olympian Helena Scutt will be the keynote presenter on Saturday, February 18 at the 2017 National Sailing Program Symposium (NSPS). The presentation, “Making Change and Paying it Forward,” will be followed by a live audience Q&A session.

NSPS will be hosted by the Sheraton Austin Hotel on February 16-18, 2017. The premier event for sailing education in the U.S. will focus on building better leaders in sailing education, growing access and creating new pathways for sailors. NSPS welcomes program directors, instructors, volunteers and industry representatives to share and learn best practices about maintaining and improving sailing programs.

Learn more and register for NSPS 2017 today at nsps.ussailing.org.

Exploring Connections Between Science and Sailing

Young sailors, big and small, participated in the US Sailing Reach Simple Machine Scavenger Hunt at TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® 2016 Great Lakes Race Series last summer. Over 1,000 youth had the unique opportunity to connect science and sailing at these events.

Tall ships lined the docks of the port festivals in Chicago, Mentor Harbor, Ohio and Bay View, Mich. and were available for the participating youth to explore. The ships were staffed with a full crew ready to answer questions and take kids and their families on a fascinating “journey back in time.” At each port US Sailing’s Reach Initiative partnered with local sailing organizations by connecting potential sailors with youth and adult sailing programs and inviting them to get involved in sailing.

The kids explored mechanical advantage and made the connection between the six simple machines: wheel and axle, lever, pulley, screw, wedge and inclined plane, and their use on tall ships and small sailboats. Kids who successfully completed the scavenger hunt challenge by finding examples of all six simple machines, received their very own “simple machine” to take home - a block key chain from Harken, a leading manufacturer and marketer of sailboat hardware and accessories. Thanks to Harken, kids had access to hands-on demonstrations of a winch (wheel and axel), winch handle (lever), blocks with various purchase systems (pulleys) and a vang system (pulley) at the US Sailing tent.

Learn more about US Sailing’s Reach at reach.ussailing.org.
US Sailing’s 2015 Annual Appeal Contributors Have Made a Difference!

Last year’s Annual Appeal directed our donors’ support to youth sailing. This generosity has been an essential ingredient in the establishment of a new US Sailing Youth Department and new youth sailing initiatives.

Our sharpened focus brings US Sailing’s youth programs, including our youth championship events, under the guidance of one dedicated team, led by the new US Sailing Youth Director, John Pearce. John came to US Sailing in August 2016 from his position as varsity sailing head coach at George Washington University. He will be working closely with key stakeholders in youth sailing from around the country to develop highly skilled young sailors by providing multiple pathways with innovative and world-class programs and services, instruction and coaching. These pathways will guide young sailors from their introduction to the sport to advanced seamanship skills, and from beginner racing to regional, national, high school and college competition, and the entry points to international and Olympic sailing.

“As a young sailor, I benefited from the guidance and support of so many passionate and knowledgeable sailors,” said Pearce. “My junior sailing instructors in Ithaca, New York made sailing an exciting and fun sport for me and my peers, and my college sailing coaches and teammates fostered a love for high-level racing. Our sport is full of fantastic role models, and I’m excited for the opportunity to work with the whole community to lead the next generation of young American sailors toward success and fun on the water.”

US Sailing empowers families to better understand and access all the options available for young sailors, with new pathways defined for recreational and competitive youth sailing.

“US Sailing is uniting behind a common vision for youth sailing and youth racing by promoting multiple pathways to becoming lifelong sailors,” said Cory Sertl, Vice President of the US Sailing Board of Directors. “Sailing is a lifetime sport and we can provide the leadership, guidance, expertise and resources to the organizations, instructors and coaches that teach young people how to experience the sport in many different ways.”

Every year, donors to the US Sailing Annual Appeal provide the fuel for initiatives that keep sailing strong! Thank you!

Coming soon! Stay connected to US Sailing for information and opportunities on how you can contribute to our 2016 Annual Appeal.

There are so Many ways to Stay Connected to @ussailing

• Breaking news, updates and real-time results from the water on Twitter.
• News and information, videos and photography, and more on Facebook.
• Get our US Sailing Stories with amazing imagery and fun videos on Instagram and Snapchat.

Photo by Onne van der Wal