

## **RA Sailboats**

Royal Ambassador Sailboats and Rain Gutter Regattas are a great interest activity for boys and their leaders. Boys can construct their sailboats from ready-made kits or wooden blocks (all the same size and shape) with a short dowel mast and a paper sail. Visit [royalracers.com](http://royalracers.com) to order RA Sailboat kits.

### **Materials Needed:**

- 1 RA Sailboat kit per participant
- Saw or wood rasp
- Medium and fine sandpaper
- Sanding sealer
- Paint and brushes
- Steel wool
- Wood glue
- Drill with 1/4" bit

### **Building Hints:**

1. Decide on a sailboat design.
2. Draw design on sailboat.
3. Carve or saw sailboat to desired shape.
4. Sand entire sailboat with medium grade sandpaper.
5. Drill 1/4" hole(s) 3/8" deep into the base.
6. Sand the mast. Taper the bottom end of the mast to fit into the drilled hole in hull.
7. Glue the mast in place. (Rudder and Keel should also be sanded and cemented in according to your design.)
8. Apply two coats of sanding sealer.
9. When completely dry, sand with fine grade sandpaper.
10. Apply two to four coats of paint. Rub with steel wool between coats.
11. When sailboat is completely dry, secure the sail to mast with glue or tape. Add numbers or other decorations as desired.

### **RA Sailboat Specifications:**

- Width—maximum of 3" wide for boat body, maximum of 5" wide sail
- Length—minimum of 6" long, maximum of 8" long
- Height—no limit
- Depth—maximum of 1 1/2" below the waterline if rudder or keel is constructed
- Weight—minimum 1 ounce (28 grams), no maximum weight limit
- Sail area—maximum of 20 square inches (5" x 4" or equivalent). This can be cut into different shapes as desired.
- Sail and side beams to hold sail—may extend wider than 3" but must be less than 5" wide and they must clear the waterline (or boat deck) by 1 1/4" in order to clear the vertical sides of the rain gutter
- Details—additional wood, plastic, string, etc., may be added for decorating as long as the above limits are not violated
- Attachments—no device may be added that will offer additional propulsion (example: propellers, etc.)

**Awards:** RAs who build and race an RA Sailboat are eligible to receive an RA Sailboat patch for the first year. Additional years of building and racing earn the RA a dated chevron for his participation.