

Use of Reciprocal Privileges

Visiting Other Yacht Clubs

One of the benefits of NYCSD membership is reciprocity with other participating yacht clubs. Each year, the Commodores of various other yacht clubs extend reciprocal privileges to NYCSD, offering the use of their club facilities for that specific year, usually via a formal written invitation. Likewise, the Commodore of NYCSD formally extends reciprocal privileges to other clubs. Each club establishes its own policies with respect to what the visiting privileges include, and some clubs do not offer reciprocals. Some clubs follow the “in-kind” policy, meaning that a club will only extend reciprocals that the guest club also offers to the host club (i.e., bar and restaurant, swimming pool, guest dock, etc.). In the case of NYCSD, our offered reciprocals include the invitation to attend NYCSD club events, sponsored reservation of the club patio, and the temporary use of the MWR guest dock, all based on availability and advance request.

A club is no different from a person’s home with respect to guests. There is nothing automatic about reciprocal privileges, and reciprocity should be considered a privilege, not a right. When you consider that many yacht clubs have fine premises, restaurants, bars, launching and boat storage facilities (and membership dues that reflect all of these benefits), it is clear that reciprocal privileges are to be treasured, nurtured, and cultivated. If abused, these privileges may be modified or formally rescinded by the host club, and privileges may be lost to an individual member, or to all of NYCSD. The NYCSD bridge and board reviews all complaints related to abuse of reciprocals, and when warranted, can suspend or revoke membership.

To maintain goodwill between NYCSD and other reciprocating clubs, it is important to follow these guidelines:

1. Remember that reciprocal privileges are not an entitlement. Do not overuse reciprocal privileges, as this reflects poorly on the guest club. Overuse will rightfully lead the host club to expect that you should become a member of their club and pay the appropriate dues.
2. Call ahead to verify that the host club offers reciprocal privileges and to verify that space is available (at the guest dock or restaurant, etc.) to ensure your visit will not conflict with other club functions.
3. When making arrangements ask about the host club and marina rules such as, proper attire, allowing pets, electrical service, etc. Many clubs have a “no cell phone” rule inside their facility. Please observe these rules as you are a guest.
4. Always have a current membership card from your club. Some clubs have barriers or security guards to prevent unauthorized access, so simply explain that you are visiting under their club’s reciprocal agreement. If access to a club is denied for any reason, please do not argue. Notify NYCSD board members of the problem to see if they can arrange a more favorable welcome next time.
5. Always sign the guest register.

6. Wear your club nametag if you have one. (You can purchase them online from the NYCSD ship store.)
7. Patronize the facilities of the host club. They may have brought in extra staff just for your visit.
8. There is no process in place for NYCSD members to make restaurant and bar charges on a club account and be billed on a monthly basis. You are expected to settle any charges in full at the time of your visit to a reciprocal club.
9. When approaching the host club via water, fly your NYCSD burgee to identify your club affiliation. This will help identify you if you made guest dock arrangements.
10. Under no circumstances board or make fast to any vessel without permission. Do not move lines or use any equipment left on the dock.
11. Always follow good environmental practice consistent with concerns for proper waste disposal and discharges from your vessel. Leave a clean wake.
12. Be gracious, courteous, and aware of the perception you give to the host club members. You are an envoy for NYCSD and our entire club will be judged by your actions.

If visiting a yacht club in another state, first call the club and ask what is needed for your visit. Usually a letter of introduction from your Commodore on yacht club stationery will help to allow you access to their club for a one-time visit.

It is also important to note that reciprocity extends only to actual members of NYCSD and does not extend to non-member family and friends. This means when visiting another yacht club as a NYCSD member **you** are the guest and should not bring additional non-member "guests". (This is a privilege reserved for members of the host club who pay dues.) However, if you check with the host yacht club ahead of time and request to bring a non-NYCSD member guest(s) with you, they usually try to accommodate as availability and space allows.

Most clubs want you to enjoy your visit at their facility. Visiting other clubs is a fun opportunity to enjoy different venues and make new friendships with fellow boating enthusiasts. Traditional yachting protocol, courtesy, and a thank you goes a long way in fostering good relations between clubs.