

SCUBA DIVING

Building it into your
Scouts, Venturer Scouts,
and **Rover Scouts** programs



It starts with Scouts.

Welcome to the World of Scuba Diving. The Popularity of scuba diving has grown exponentially over the last several years. Much like scuba, the overall philosophy of scouting encourages the quest for adventure. It is a life changing experience that enables young men and women to embrace challenges in a whole new way exploring the over 70% of the Earth's surface covered by water. That first breath underwater; the feeling of total weightlessness as you embark into a foreign world enables you to be part of something so powerful it transforms your life.

With the approval of the Scuba Diving Partnership there are now countless opportunities for Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts to explore the thrill of scuba. Prior to getting started it would be helpful for Leader Advisors to understand some general guidelines for working with PADI Dive Centres and Resorts. PADI facilities can be found throughout Canada as diving is available in many local lakes, quarries, rivers and of course oceans. The purpose of this pamphlet is to begin your scuba adventure.



Why PADI?

The Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) is the world's largest recreational diver training, certification and membership organization. PADI Members (dive centres, resorts, educational facilities, instructors, assistant instructors and divemasters) issue approximately 1,000,000 certifications worldwide each year, making underwater exploration and adventure accessible to the public, while maintaining the highest industry standards for dive training and safety.

With more than 135,000 PADI Professionals and approximately 6,000 PADI Dive Centres and Resorts operating in more than 180 countries and territories worldwide, PADI training materials and services let you experience scuba diving from nearly anywhere.

PADI Divers carry the most respected and sought after scuba credentials in the world. No matter where you choose to dive, your PADI scuba certification card will be recognized and accepted. In fact, on most scuba diving adventures you'll be surrounded by other PADI Divers who earned the same certification choice you did — to train with the world's largest and most respected scuba diving training organization.



Working with the local PADI Dive Centre(s) or Resort(s)

Your local PADI Dive Centre or Resort is your source for bringing scuba activities to your troop, company or crew.

Your local PADI Dive Centre can help you with the following:

- Making a scuba presentation at a troop or company or crew meeting
- Attending local meetings to discuss Scuba opportunities.
- Putting together programs for groups or individual members to get certified as PADI Open Water Divers or advanced dive ratings.

In addition, PADI Dive Centres can give presentations and teach programs in:

- First Aid, CPR and AED usage with the Emergency First Response® curriculum*
- Coordinate and arrange environmental programs such as beach clean-ups and training on how to protect the aquatic world using Project AWARE*, perfect for an environmental project!

The progression and variety of scuba and snorkeling courses offered by PADI are bound to keep members engaged for many years to come. PADI offers over 27 Specialty Ratings including Wreck Diving, Underwater Naturalist, and Digital Underwater Photography just to name a few. These courses encourage Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts to continue their education in a fun and exciting way. The Scuba Diving challenge badge offers a unique opportunity since it is only the beginning of their scuba adventure.



Getting Started

When contacting a PADI Dive Centre or Resort there are a few common questions that should be asked to determine the type of program that will best suit your group. *(Please keep in mind all PADI Dive Centres and Resorts are independently owned and operated; programs, course schedules, products, pricing, hours of operation, etc. are all set by the facility and will vary from business to business.)*

1) How is the knowledge development portion of the course completed?

There are three options available for completing the knowledge development portion of the scuba course:

PADI eLearning® program: Knowledge development portion is completed online at the pace of the student diver.

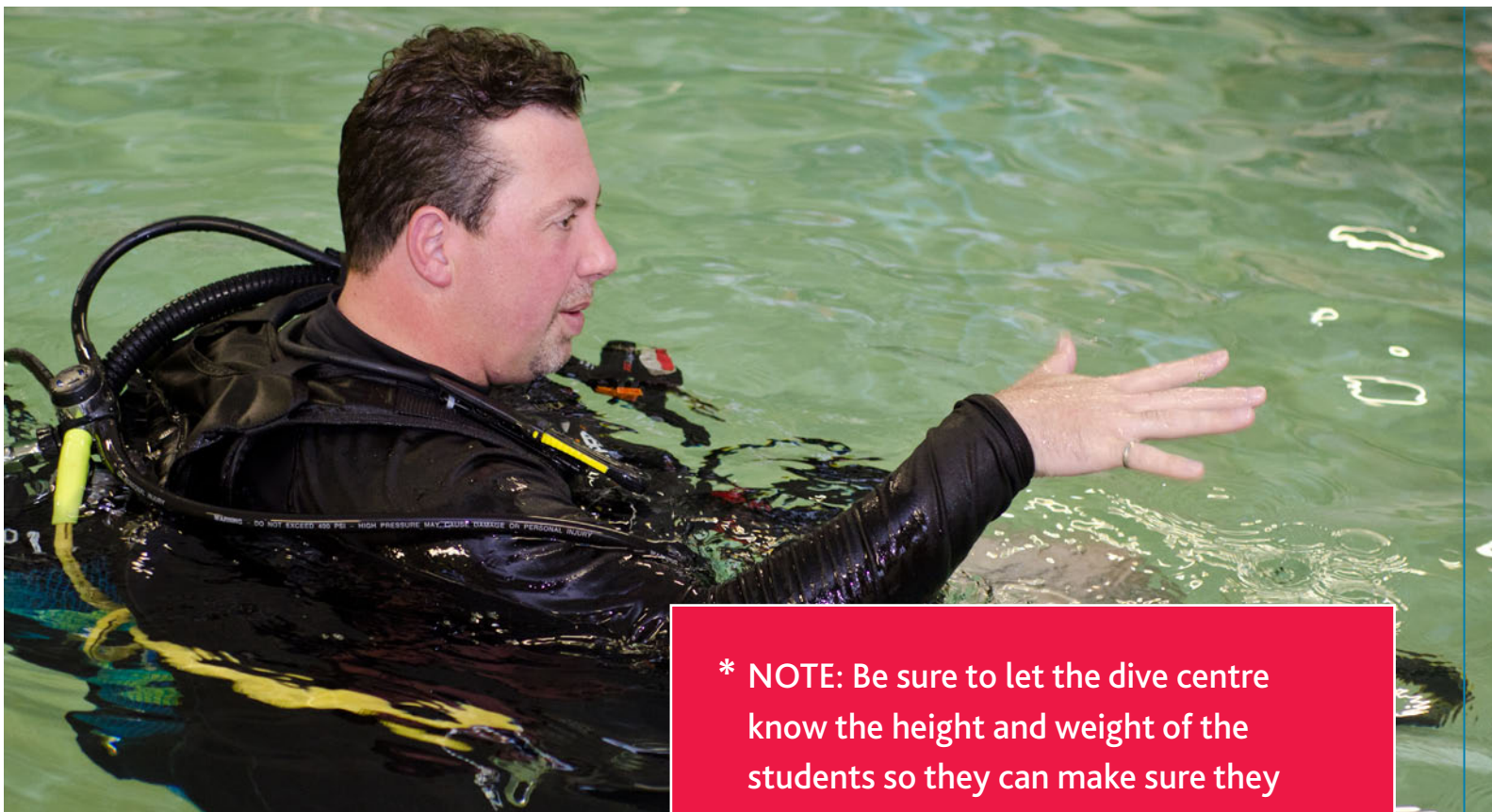
Home Study program: is an option that can also be completed in the comfort of the student divers' home and at their pace using hard copies of the training material.

Classroom program: is a more traditional approach of conducting the knowledge development training in the dive centres classroom using hard copies of the training material.

2) What is the schedule for the course?

Most dive centres offer a variety of different course schedules (including evenings and weekends). If the dive centre does not have a class schedule that meets the needs of your group ask if there is an option to customize the schedule.

*** NOTE:** All three options provide the same high level of PADI training standards. The decision should be based on personal preference and availability from the dive centre.



*** NOTE:** Be sure to let the dive centre know the height and weight of the students so they can make sure they have enough gear available for everyone.

3) What information do I need to have available when I contact the dive centre?

When scheduling a group the dive centre will ask you a variety of questions including number of students and age of each participant. This is important because PADI standards require specific instructor to student ratios so the store will want to make sure they have adequate staff on hand.

4) How much will the course cost?

Each dive centre is independently owned and operated so course pricing will vary depending on the store and the method of learning you choose. Many dive centres do offer special pricing for Scouting Groups so be sure to identify yourself as a scout leader/advisor.

5) What type of gear will I need?

To ensure the experience is enjoyable, most dive centres require each student diver to have personal snorkeling gear including mask, snorkel and fins. Depending on the geographic location and water temperature some stores may also require a hood, dive booties and gloves.

All of these items can be purchased on site at the dive centre. Most dive centres will have the remainder of the gear available for rental. It's important to work with an experienced dive centre when purchasing scuba diving gear (including mask, snorkel and fins) to ensure everything fits properly.

6) Where are the confined and open water dives conducted?

The confined water dives are conducted in a swimming pool either on site at the dive centre or at a local pool or at an open water site with pool like conditions in the area and may take several sessions. The four open water dives are conducted over a minimum of two days at a local dive site such as a lake, quarry or the ocean depending on the geographic location.

Additional Opportunities

The Open Water Diver course is just the first step to tapping into an abundance of educational opportunities, programs and adventures for Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts. There are many additional programs offered by PADI that compliment other scouting programs. The PADI and Scouts Canada partnership has now opened the door to making all of these accessible to troops, companies or crews.

Members are able to continue their Scuba experience by obtaining their full open water certification and beyond.

First Aid – Through Emergency First Response, PADI offers an accredited First Aid, CPR and AED program covering Adult, Child and Infant emergency procedures. First aid is a requirement for many levels of the Scouting program, and also a requirement for the PADI Rescue diver course.

Swimming – Many PADI Dive Centres have pools on site and can assist packs, troops, companies and crews with swimming instruction. Some PADI Instructors are qualified as instructors for the swimming challenge badge.

Oceanography – PADI offers a variety of programs that could be taught in conjunction with scuba, such as the PADI National Geographic Specialty, Project AWARE Specialty, Underwater Naturalist Specialty and Project AWARE Fish Identification program.

Scouting and Conservation – The Project AWARE Foundation has a number of activities and events throughout the year to promote environmental awareness and conservation. Beach and ocean clean-ups are held regularly. In addition, many dive centres and their divers get involved in local, regional or national projects such as artificial reef preservation. There is a critical need for volunteers to conserve and preserve the aquatic world and scouts could definitely make a tremendous difference while logging valuable service hours.



Scouts Canada SCUBA

This Scouts Canada Scuba program has been introduced as a partnership between PADI and Scouts Canada in 2011. Your local PADI Dive Centre or Resort can fulfill the qualified supervision and the scuba experience requirements needed to qualify for this award.

Scouts Canada Scuba introduces qualified Scout, Venturer Scout, Rover Scouts, and registered adult participants to the special skills, equipment, and safety precautions associated with scuba diving, encourages aquatics activities that promote fitness and recreation, and provides a foundation for those who later will participate in more advanced underwater activities.

The Scouts Canada Scuba experience contains two parts — Knowledge Development and Water Skills Development. During the first part, participants learn basic dive safety information and overview skills to be used during their water experience. The Water Skills Development session introduces essential dive skills, such as mask clearing, regulator clearing, and alternate air source use. All of the activities are designed to be completed in confined water with open water (ocean, lake) activities being suggested as appropriate for Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts.

Scuba as a Possible Elective for Personal Interest Award in Venturers

Scuba is another potential elective available to Venturer Scouts who are in pursuit of their Personal Interest Award. There are three steps to successfully complete this segment of the training.

1. The Venturer Scout must become certified as a PADI Open Water Diver (or obtain an equal certification from an accredited agency.)
2. Make a presentation to their group, another group or a Cub Scout or Scout group on what it takes to become certified and some other subject related to Scuba Diving.
3. Assist with a Scouts Canada Scuba program as teaching others is a key characteristic of Venturing.

Many PADI Dive Centres already support Venturing crews. Contact your local PADI Dive Centre or Resort today to see how your crew can benefit from this partnership.



Troop Specialty Badge (Scuba)

Pre-requisite:

Participants must achieve the Scout Swimming Badge, or complete a swimming evaluation under the supervision of the scuba instructor prior to earning their Scuba badge.

The program associated with Scouts obtaining the Troop Specialty Badge (Scuba) is an introductory program used to introduce non-divers to diving in a closely supervised, controlled environment; typically a swimming pool or confined body of water with pool-like conditions. This program does not result in a scuba diver certification for the participating Scouts, but serves as a basis for the Scout to experience breathing air underwater and to consider becoming a certified diver. In general terms the introductory program must meet the minimum training standards for introductory scuba experiences set forth by RSTC Canada. The general guidelines are listed below, but the scuba instructor conducting the experience must follow the standards of his training agency.



Requirements:

1. The scuba instructor is to conduct a briefing or knowledge development section that covers:
 - a. Breathing rules and equalization techniques
 - b. Purpose and use of the scuba equipment worn by participants
 - c. Hand signals
 - d. Regulator and mask clearing techniques
 - e. Respect for aquatic life (if appropriate based on location of the program)
 - f. Importance of following the direction of the instructor and staying close
 - g. Limitations of the program and the need for and benefit to continue to a full diver certification course
2. The scuba instructor is to introduce various scuba skills to the participants in water shallow enough to stand in, including:
 - a. Proper breathing underwater
 - b. Mask and regulator clearing technique
 - c. Proper equalization techniques
3. The maximum number of participants to instructor is eight to one (8:1) in a swimming pool, and four to one (4:1) in confined open water.
4. Participants may participate in an open water dive with the instructor after satisfactorily completing the above requirements. The maximum participant to instructor ratio is four to one (4:1) at a maximum depth of 40 feet/12 metres.

NOTE: The instructor for this badge must hold an instructor rating and be in current teaching status with PADI, or a member of RSTC Canada. Instruction must meet the minimum training standards for scuba set by RSTC Canada. This badge does not necessarily require open water diving, as all the practical requirements can be completed in a pool setting.

To get your unit involved with scuba contact your local PADI Dive Center or Resort today.

1. Visit "locate a PADI Dive Shop" section at www.padi.com or;
2. Contact a PADI Regional Manager to obtain more information about dive centers in your local area.

Contact Us:

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***Project AWARE Foundation** works in partnership with divers and water enthusiasts to combat challenges facing underwater environments. We involve these volunteers in hands-on environmental activities like International Cleanup Day and The International Whale Shark Project. Project AWARE also inspires conservation by incorporating its messages in dive training materials as well as creating awareness and education campaigns like Protect the Sharks, Protect the Living Reef and AWARE Kids.



***Emergency First Response®** With more than 46,000 instructors worldwide, Emergency First Response is backed by 36 years of experience in the development and delivery of instructional courses, training materials and educational curricula. Emergency First Response courses have gained widespread international acceptance.

Emergency First Response's course curricula are based on patient care standards as published in the American Heart Association Guidelines 2010 Standards.



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