



FAQ's about PADI Open Water Scuba Certification:

How much does it cost?

The basic course fee is \$275 per student. There is a \$100 minimum payment required to obtain course materials. The balance is due on or before the first classroom session. Credit cards, checks, and cash accepted. Pre-scheduled classes are run through the City of Fernandina Beach. Please make checks payable to the City. Credit cards are accepted at the Atlantic Recreation Center or via phone. The open water check-out dive fee is typically an additional \$125-\$150 for 2 days of diving and one night's lodging. This fee is dependent upon destination and itinerary.

What do I have to provide?

Students are asked to provide their own mask, snorkel, fins, booties, and weights. Several student equipment package purchase options are available. Tanks, wetsuits, regulators, and BCD's are provided.

Where will my training occur?

Academic and confined pool sessions are offered through the City of Fernandina Beach Parks and Recreation Department. Registration, classroom sessions and most pool sessions are offered at the Atlantic Recreation Center located at 2500 Atlantic Avenue. Some pool sessions may be scheduled at the City pool located at 1200 Elm St. If you choose a private or semi-private option, a PADI eLearning path may be required. The four open water training dives are typically done in the Florida Springs, located in Central Florida. Blue Grotto and/or Devils Den, located in Williston, Florida, and Troy Springs State Park in Branford, Florida are our most common destinations. Ocean dives in West Palm Beach or elsewhere may also be an option based on class size and/or if weather and sea conditions allow.

How long does the course take to complete?

This depends on the course option you choose. Typically, in a group format, the academic and confined water pool sessions take approximately 18-20 hours and the four open water training dives require 2 full days. We typically offer a 2-weekend, full-day format but other options are available (just ask!) We offer **private training options and will also customize course schedules for groups of 4 or more** (ask! We may be able to find others to complete a group of 4!). The eLearning option will reduce the required time spent with an instructor.

How much academic preparation will be required on my part?

The typical academic portion of the course requires that you read and review the relevant portions of the provided text book prior to attending class (a CD-ROM version is available upon request). Each chapter has a written Knowledge Review sheet that should be completed at the end of each chapter. Your instructor will ensure that you have completed each review prior to allowing you to take each quiz or the final exam. Classroom discussions will assist you in clarifying any concepts that you may have had trouble with at home. For the weekend format, we recommend that you complete the entire book prior to the first night of class. You will also receive a DVD, on loan to you, that should be viewed in conjunction with your text. An **eLearning** option is available online through www.PADI.com for an additional fee. Contact us to discuss the benefits of the eLearning options.

Are there age restrictions for Open Water Certification?

There is no maximum age for certification. While the preferred minimum age is 12, 10 and 11 year olds may become certified divers with additional restrictions on class size and depth requirements. Due to these restrictions, enrollment and/or course completion for a 10 or 11 year old is at the instructor's discretion. It is recommended that both parent and 10-11 year old student meet with the instructor prior to enrollment. An additional pre-course video is required for this age group.

Must I be a good swimmer to take this course?

Safety and endurance are the objectives (it doesn't have to look pretty!). You will be required to swim 200 yards continuously and unassisted, in any fashion, as well as successfully complete a 10 minute float or tread in order to complete this course.

I'm not positive that I will like scuba diving. Can I try it before I enroll in the full course?

Yes! Schedule a Discover Scuba Diving Experience with an instructor which consists of a brief 30 minute classroom session followed by a 1- 1 ½ hour equipment familiarization and pool session. The fee for Discover Scuba Experience is \$50 city residents/\$63 non-city. \$50 may be credited toward an Open Water course if enrolled within 12 months.

I have a medical condition that may affect my ability to scuba dive. May I enroll in the course?

Prior to the first pool session (Discover Scuba, Open Water, or any continuing education courses), you must complete the PADI Medical Questionnaire. If you answer "Yes" to any of the questions listed, you must obtain your physician's approval to dive. A signed PADI release form from your doctor must be submitted before you proceed with any of the confined water sessions. **We recommend that you complete the Medical Questionnaire well before the starting date of your course in order to avoid unnecessary delays in your training schedule.** If you have a disability, your instructor will work with you towards the completion of course standards.

Contact us at info@scubastationinc.com or at 904-321-1770 for more information.