



2024 PADI Open Water Scuba Training Information and Schedule r.1-24

**Courses subject to minimum and maximum enrollment, so REGISTER EARLY!*

**Call or secure an updated schedule prior to enrollment.*

**Additional courses may be added to schedule subject to requests and enrollment.*

NOTE: A PHYSICIAN'S RELEASE FORM MAY BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO CONFINED WATER TRAINING. PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE IN YOUR STUDENT FOLDER OR REQUEST ONE VIA EMAIL WELL BEFORE THE START DATE OF THE COURSE. CONTACT SCUBA STATION IMMEDIATELY IF ANY OF THE LISTED CONDITIONS APPLY TO YOU.

General Information

All academics must be completed online through PADI prior to attending class.

- The \$495 Course fee, payable to Scuba Station, includes PADI Open Water eLearning, certification e-card, facility/pool use, instruction, log book, student record file, use of SCUBA gear and admission for 2 days of diving in the Florida springs. *Students are responsible for providing their own suitable mask, snorkel, fins and booties (see FAQs) and are responsible for transportation of themselves and student gear to our dive sites, food and 1-night's lodging.*
- If minimum enrollment is not achieved you will be notified 1 week in advance for rescheduling or be offered private or semi-private pricing options.
- The course schedule generally encompasses two consecutive weekends or occasionally 4 consecutive days. Customized group schedules that meet the minimum enrollment requirement may be offered upon request. See the annual schedule of group classes below or contact us to discuss *customized scheduling possibilities*.
- For ages 12 and up; 10/11-year-olds are admitted with special restrictions at instructor's discretion and there may be an additional instructor fee due to the required instructor/students ratio for this age group.
- You have online **HOMEWORK** that must be completed prior to attending class. After registering with Scuba Station and determining that you are physically able to dive (as stated above you may need a physician's approval signature prior to attending class), begin PADI eLearning by responding to the enrollment information that you will receive via email. During the online registration completion process, complete the Open Water Diver eLearning course prior to the first in-person class (*detailed online registration instructions included in FAQs*).

Course Schedules:

-Subject to change in accordance with class size, changing pool schedule and weather.

-Note that 8a-5p times for the first weekend of each 2-weekend class are "windows" of opportunity.

-True time spans will be adjusted within this time frame based on enrollment, pool availability, and special needs of any particular student(s).

Course #1, March 15 (6-9p),	16-17 (8a-5p),	23-24 (gone all weekend) SPRING BREAK CLASS
Course #2, April 5 (6-9p),	6-7 (8a-5p),	13-14 (gone all weekend)
Course #3, May 3 (6-9p),	4-5 (8a-5p),	11-12 (gone all weekend)
Course #4, May 31 (6-9p),	June 1-2 (8a-5p),	8-9 (gone all weekend)
Course #5, July 5 (6-9p),	6-7 (8a-5p),	13-14 (gone all weekend)
Course #6, August 2 (6-9p),	3-4 (8a-5p),	10-11 (gone all weekend)
Course #7, Sept. 13 (6-9p),	14-15 (8a-5p),	21-22 (gone all weekend)
Course #8, Oct. 18 (6-9p),	19-20 (8a-5p),	26-27 (gone all weekend)

Don't see a class that fits your schedule? Please contact us for additional options: Start with one class and finish with another or ask about moving your pool sessions closer to the scheduled check-out dives; private instruction available; bring 5 or more and set your own group schedule!

***To register, visit Scuba Station, 1401 Park Ave., Suite B, Fernandina Beach, Wed.- Sat., 12-6
Email scubastationfl@gmail.com or call Kathy Russell at 904-509-2484 with any questions.***

FAQs about PADI Open Water Scuba Certification:

1. How much is the course fee?

\$495 (may be subject to change). This includes PADI Open Water eLearning, certification e-card, facility/pool use, instruction, log book, student record file, use of SCUBA gear (tanks, wetsuit, regulator, dive computer, BCD and weights) and admission for 2 days of diving in the Florida springs.

2. What do I have to provide?

Students provide their own mask, snorkel, fins and booties at the first in-person session. Scuba Station offers a student equipment package purchase discount. Hotel, food and your personal transportation costs are not included in the course fee.

3. Where will my training occur?

Registration and the initial Friday night classroom session are offered at Scuba Station, 1401 Park Ave., Suite B, in Fernandina Beach. Confined water/pool sessions are offered at several local pools, depending on availability. The four open water dives are typically conducted in the Florida Springs, located in Central Florida. Devils Den, located in Williston, Florida, and Rainbow River in Dunnellon are our most common destinations. See FAQ#12 for more details on check-out dives.

4. How long does the course take to complete?

We typically offer a 2-weekend, full-day, in-person format but other options are available (just ask!). Your course time depends on the schedule you choose and your eLearning pace. Plan on at least 10 hours to complete all eLearning sessions prior to attending your first in-person session. Typically, class discussions and local pool sessions take approximately 8-10 hours and the four open water training dives require 2 full days. We offer private training options and will also customize course schedules for groups of 5 or more (ask! We may be able to find others to complete a group).

5. How much academic preparation will be required on my part?

This Open Water Diver certification course requires that you complete the PADI eLearning course prior to attending class. Completion time will vary with the individual but plan on 10 or more hours. A short "Quick Test" will be administered on site during the first in-person session to assure your instructor that you are prepared. Classroom discussion will assist you in clarifying any concepts. eLearning provides you with the opportunity to attend just a brief session with an instructor to complete paperwork prior to pool sessions and the flexibility to discuss pertinent topics in the classroom with no further testing.

6. Are there age restrictions for Open Water Certification?

There is no maximum age for certification. While the preferred minimum age is 12, 10-11-year-olds may become certified divers with additional restrictions on class size, instructor to students ratio, 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 and there may be an additional instructor fee due to the required instructor/student ratio.

7. Must I be a good swimmer to take this course?

Safety and endurance are the key (it doesn't have to look pretty!). You will be required to successfully swim continuously and unassisted for 200 yards without equipment or 300 yards using mask, fins & snorkel, as well as successfully complete a 10-minute float or tread prior to the end of the course. We schedule this swim test during the first pool session.

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

Yes! Schedule a Discover Scuba pool experience with an instructor. This introductory pool session consists of a brief 30-minute equipment fitting and familiarization session followed by a 1- hour pool session.

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

Upon registration, you must complete the PADI Medical Questionnaire in your student Record Folder or on the PADI form provided to you. If you answer "Yes" to any of the questions listed, you may have to obtain your physician's approval to dive (Note: if you have ever had Covid this is an automatic trip to the doctor for approval). All conditions listed may affect your ability to dive safely. Read these carefully before responding (you may not change your answers on this legal document) and answer truthfully. Some "yes" answers will require you to complete a more comprehensive form. If called for, obtain the PADI physician's consent form from Scuba Station to check the additional boxes. If a Dr.'s signature is required, bring the completed form, signed by your physician, to your instructor before or on the first night of class. We recommend that you complete the Medical Questionnaire and follow through with a visit to your physician (if required) before enrolling in eLearning (as there are no eLearning refunds) and well before the start 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 objectives.

10. How do I enroll in a specific scheduled class?

Contact Scuba Station at 904-321-1770, or stop by Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm, to register and pay the registration fee. Don't forget to pick up your PADI Student Record Folder that must be filled out, signed, and turned in asap, before you will be emailed an eLearning enrollment code (email scubastationfl@gmail.com if you prefer to have this folder mailed to you). When your Student Record File is completed and turned in to us, PADI will be notified to email you your eLearning enrollment code. AFTER determining that you are physically able to dive (See FAQ #9), register for the eLearning portion of the course online (FAQ#11).

11. How do I register for PADI eLearning?

First, turn in your completed Student Record File to Scuba Station for review. This will enable the shop to send your enrollment information to PADI, followed by an email from PADI that will allow you to enroll in the eLearning portion of the course when you're ready. If you have responded yes to any of the questions on the Medical Questionnaire, you may need to obtain a physician's approval prior to starting the course. Once you enroll online with PADI there are no eLearning refunds so if a physician's approval is required we want to be sure you are cleared before you move forward.

To register for eLearning, select the link in the email received from PADI.

- Follow the prompts in the email. You are already entered into the PADI system. Your eLearning is paid for. Do not register from scratch and pay again as there's no way to get you a refund.
- Your user name will be your email. You'll need to create a password. User names are exclusive (an email may not be used for more than 1 student).
- Complete the set-up of your account by entering the requested personal information. This is the information that will appear on your final certification card so be thorough and use proper capitalizations. Please include a middle initial if you have one and PLEASE ENTER YOUR ADDRESS!
- You will already be affiliated with Scuba Station.
- "Adding Recommended Materials:" There is no need to purchase anything online to complete this course unless YOU want it. You will be provided with a student folder and logbook.
- The Open Water Diver eLearning course must be successfully completed prior to attending the first class.
- At the first in-person meeting, you will take a short "Quick Test" that will verify that you have an understanding of the material.

12. What should I expect for the required check-out dives?

Once you successfully complete eLearning and pool skills, we'll spend 2 days completing 4 required check-out dives. Typically, we spend one night in a hotel near one or both of the dive sites. Your course payment includes admission to the dive sites. Transportation, gear transport, food and lodging near our dive sites is on your own, but at your first class session ask for hotel options and the possibility of a group lodging rate.

Typical check-out dive locations: Devil's Den Spring in Williston Florida and Rainbow River in Dunnellon. We may also use Blue Grotto in Williston, or Troy & Royal Springs near Branford. Additional options may be offered.

Check out these websites for dive site information:

- www.devilsden.com
- www.therainbowriver.com
- www.divebluegrotto.com
- www.floridastateparks.org/troyspring/

Although some websites may mention the cave(s) or caverns associated with each spring, we will restrict our diving to open water areas. WE DO NOT DIVE IN OVERHEAD ENVIRONMENTS!

13. I have my own scuba gear. May I use it during the class?

While there is no course discount for bringing your own scuba gear, you may use personal gear with the following stipulations: Proof of purchase for NEW gear within the past year or proof of regulator and BC servicing within the past 2 years. Please show verification and equipment to your instructor on the first night of class. An alternate air source, SPG, compass, dive computer, audible signaling device (whistle), and "keepers" for both the console and octopus must be included in any scuba kit. Our BCs have quick release weight pockets. If yours does not, you must provide your own weight belt and weights.

Email scubastationfl@gmail.com or call Kathy Russell at 904-509-2484 with any questions