



2021 PADI Open Water Scuba Training Information and Schedule r.12-2020

**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 WELL BEFORE THE START DATE OF THE COURSE. CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY IF ANY OF THE LISTED CONDITIONS APPLY TO YOU.

General Information

All academics will be completed online through PADI.

Classroom discussions will be conducted to review certain topics.

- The PADI eLearning fee of \$195 (*subject to change*) includes online academic training, use of SCUBA gear (**suitable mask, snorkel, fins and booties must be provided by student**), and certification card. The additional City course fee of \$120 includes facility use and instruction. The \$125 fee for check-out dives is additional and includes admission for 2 days of diving in the Florida springs and may vary depending on location.
- Class size is limited and minimum class size applies. 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 4 consecutive days. Alternative schedules may be offered upon request. See the annual schedule of classes below or contact us to discuss *customized scheduling possibilities*.
- For ages 12 and up (10/11-year-olds admitted with restrictions and at instructor's discretion).
- You have online **HOMEWORK** that must be completed prior to attending class. After registering with the City and determining that you are physically able to dive (as stated above you may need a physician's approval signature prior to attending class), register for PADI Open Water Diver eLearning through PADI.com: affiliate with the local dive shop, complete Open Water Diver eLearning and print out a completion form prior to the first in-person class (*detailed online registration instructions included in FAQ's*).

Course Schedule:

Subject to change in accordance with class enrollment (minimum 4), changing pool schedule (updates of Covid restrictions) 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 weekend pool availability.

Course #1, January 29 (6-9p), 30-31 (8a-5p), February 6-7 (gone all weekend)

Course #2, March 25-26 (11a-8p, spring break), 27-28 (gone all weekend) (four consecutive days)

Course #3, April 16 (6-9p) 17-18 (8a-5p) 24-25 (gone all weekend)

Course #4, May 14 (6-9p), 15-16 (8a-5p), 22-23 (gone all weekend)

Course #5, June 4 (6-9p), 5-6 (8a-5p), 12-13 (gone all weekend)

Course #6, July 16 (6-9p), 17-18 (8a-5p), 24-25 (gone all weekend)

Course #7, August 20 (6-9p), 21-22 (8a-5p), 28-29 (gone all weekend)

Course #8, September 17 (6-9p), 18-19 (8a-5p), 25-26 (gone all weekend)

Course #9, October 15 (6-9p), 16-17 (8a-5p), 23-24 (gone all weekend)

Course #10, November 11-12 (11a-8p, Veterans Day weekend), 13-14 (gone all weekend) (four consecutive days)

Course #11, Dec. 27-28 (11a-8p, Christmas break), 29-30 (gone 2 weekdays) (four consecutive days)

Don't see a class that fits your schedule? Please contact us for additional options. Start with one class and finish with another; private classes available; bring 5 or more and set your own schedule!

Visit the City of Fernandina Beach Parks and Recreation Department, 2500 Atlantic Ave., Fernandina Beach or call 904-310-3350 x 1 to register via phone (you must still pick up your student folder).

Email krussell@fbfl.org with any questions.

FAQ's about PADI Open Water Scuba Certification:

1. How much does it cost?

The sum of the 2 basic course fees and check-out dives is:

\$120 to City of Fernandina Beach + \$195 to PADI online for eLearning + \$125 check-out dive fee=\$440. Check-out dive weekend lodging is on your own. Ask for lodging options at the first session and/or if a reduced City rate is available.

Fees may be subject to change. Credit cards are accepted at the Atlantic Recreation Center or via phone.

2. What do I have to provide?

Students provide their own mask, snorkel, fins and booties at the first in-person session. If needed, the local dive shop offers a student equipment package purchase discount. Tanks, wetsuits, regulators, and BCDs are provided. 1-night lodging is additional.

3. Where will my training occur?

Classroom discussion sessions 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. 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 or a 4 consecutive day 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 of 5).

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

The academic portion of the Open Water Diver 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 discussions 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 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.

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. Generally, we schedule this swim test at the first in-person session so please bring your student equipment package (FAQ#2) and be prepared to get wet first thing!

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 Try-it Dive with an instructor which consists of a brief 30 minute equipment fitting and familiarization session followed by a 1- hour pool session. The fee for a Try-it Dive is \$50 city residents/\$63 non-city. Couple and group rates are available.

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

Prior to the first Open Water course pool session, you must complete the PADI Medical Questionnaire in your student Record folder. If you answer "Yes" to any of the questions listed, you must obtain your physician's approval to dive. 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. If a physician's consent is required, obtain the PADI physician's consent form from the Recreation Department and bring the completed form, signed by your physician, to your instructor 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 standards.

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

Contact the City Parks and Recreation Department, 904-310-3350 x 1 to register and pay the City registration fee. Don't forget to pick up your PADI Student Record Folder that must be filled out, signed, and turned in to your instructor at the first class session. After determining that you are physically able to dive (See FAQ #9), register online (FAQ#11),

11. How do I register for PADI eLearning?

First, complete the Medical Questionnaire in the Student Record Folder that you obtained from the Parks and Recreation Department when you registered with the City for the class. Once you enroll 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 pay PADI.

- Go to PADI.com to register for the Open Water eLearning course: www.padi.com

- Select "Start Now."
- In the Open Water Diver box, select "Get Started."
- Select "Open Water Diver – English" or another language if you prefer.
- Select "Buy Now."
- Select your "Country of residence" and "State of residence."
- Select "Open Water Diver" and press "Buy Now."
- Enter your email, select a password that you will remember, then press "Continue."
- Create an 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.
- Select a dive shop in Fernandina Beach, zip code 32034 (there's only 1!). This is important as your instructor(s) is/are affiliated with this shop and may wish to monitor your progress. This is also the affiliation that will process your certification card. Without affiliation, you will be responsible for this extra \$45 certification card fee.
- Scroll to the bottom and "Affiliate with this Dive Shop."
- "Add Recommended Materials:" There is no need to select anything other than the eLearning course itself unless YOU want it. You will be provided with a student folder and logbook. Select "Continue."
- "Order Summary and Payment": Complete payment information and continue to finalize course registration.
 - The Open Water Diver eLearning course must be successfully completed prior to attending the first class.
 - Print out your Course Completion Form, sign it, and bring it to your instructor at the first in-person session.
 - At the first meeting, you will take a short "Quick Test" that will verify that you know 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 check-out dive payment includes admission to the dive sites and transportation of gear. Lodging near our dive sites is on your own but at your first class session, ask for hotel options and the possibility of a City 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/or BC servicing within the past 2 years must be presented 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 are requirements for this class and 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 krussell@fbfl.org with any questions