



Open Water Diver Class Fact Sheet

The Open Water Diver Class at Underwater Adventures is the entry-level certification program that is your introduction to scuba diving. The program is sanctioned by PADI, the largest and most recognized certifying agency in the world.



What you will learn

Through a combination of academic work and in-water skills sessions, you will learn how to become a safe, confident, and capable scuba diver. You will also learn how much fun it is to experience the wonder and beauty of the underwater world.

The Program

The program has two parts. Part 1 combines academics with pool sessions that are done either in five weekly sessions or can be completed during a single weekend. Part 2 is the Open Water training dives where you demonstrate your skills in a real water environment.

We do our best to schedule classes that are convenient for you and help you get certified before a vacation you have planned. Check out the *Class Schedule* section of our website for the latest class offerings. Semi-private or private classes can also be arranged to provide individual attention and customized scheduling.

Part 1 – Academics and Pool

Academics

We spend part of each session in the classroom discussing important diving concepts and relating real life examples that you will use when you are in the water. There is a short quiz after each section and a final exam on the last day. Much of the academic work is done at home prior to class by reading the Open Water Diver Manual and watching the DVD. This pre-work takes between 10-15 hours to complete. You will need to purchase the PADI Open Water Crewpak (\$75) to begin studying. As an alternative, you can complete the academic portion online through



Pool Sessions

Here is where you experience what it is like to scuba dive! You will learn how to use scuba equipment and perform diving skills in a safe and fun environment. We go at your pace and make it an experience that you will never forget.



The tuition for the Academic/Pool portion of the program is \$315 (weekly sessions) or \$349 (weekend session) and includes instruction, pool rental, major equipment for the pool sessions, and a \$50 credit towards your required personal equipment (see below).

Part 2 – Open Water Training

To complete your certification, you will complete four dives over two days, putting your diving skills to use and having fun exploring what there is to see underwater. This training is completed at Dutch Springs, a scuba diving facility in Bethlehem, PA (approx. one hour away). This is a fun group event that ends in a celebration once the last certification dive is completed. The cost for this portion of the program is \$235 and includes instruction, equipment rental, and certification processing. The rental package includes all the equipment you'll need for the two days of diving (BC, regulator, tanks, dive computer, weights, weight belt, wetsuit, hood, and gloves). We don't require you to purchase weights, weight belts or other items that you may not use again. When you arrive at Dutch Springs you will need to pay the park entrance fee (\$36/day) and two air fill tickets (\$6 each).

Additional options for Open Water Training

Instead of completing your open water dives locally, you can finish your training in a warm water environment. This can be done on one of our trips or while you are on vacation through a referral to an instructor at your destination. Check our *Diving Travel* schedule for more info.

IMPORTANT - Prior to the class:

1. Each participant must come to the store for a mandatory orientation to the program. During this orientation you will get detailed information about logistics, requirements, equipment, pre-work, and to answer any questions you may have. This will take approximately 1 hour and can be done anytime during regular store hours.
2. When you come in for your orientation, you will be assisted with the purchase of your mask, fins, snorkel, and boots that you will use during class and anytime you dive after you are certified. This usually costs between \$200 - \$300 depending on the brands and styles you select. Your tuition includes a \$50 credit towards this equipment. You must purchase all 4 items (mask, fins, snorkel, and boots) at Underwater Adventures in order to qualify for the credit.
3. Please note that the required academic pre-work takes between 10-15 hours to complete and must be done prior to the first class (for weekend sessions) so please plan accordingly!

At the completion of the program you will receive your PADI Open Water Diver Certification Card. This C-Card is the most recognized diving certification available and will allow you to dive anywhere in the world.

So come join the fun. Experience the magic of scuba diving. Check out our class schedule and begin your adventure.



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Underwater Adventures Policies Regarding Classes

We know that you are busy and that things happen that can change your plans. We strive to be as understanding of your circumstances as possible. We don't like having a lot of rules and procedures, since this is scuba diving and it is supposed to be fun! But to be fair to all our customers and because of the work and staffing preparation required of us in scheduling classes, we have the following policies regarding our classes.

Reserving and Confirming Spots in a Class

Tuition for classes (including open water sessions) must be paid in full to reserve your spot in class. For Open Water Part 1, if a participant has not come in for their orientation session to confirm their spot at least seven days prior to the first class, Underwater Adventures reserves the right to switch the student to different class to make room for another student.

Changes or Cancellations

A student may switch to another class, or to another open water session at Dutch Springs, with no penalty if at least 48 hours notice is given to Underwater Adventures. If less than 48 hours notice is given, there will be a \$40 per person change fee. If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent the student from participating on short notice, let us know and we may allow for an exception at our discretion. Any exception would apply to the affected individual only and not to others in a group.

If cancellation of a class or an open water session is requested by the participant due to medical reasons, scheduling conflicts, or any other reason, we will apply the tuition towards another scheduled class or session, or as store credit for up to one year from the date of the request. Due to the preparation involved and the scheduling commitments for the class, we cannot offer a refund of the tuition. Any unused equipment or academic materials can be returned in accordance with the return policy pertaining to merchandise.

Missed Classes

We understand that circumstances may dictate that you have to miss a pool/academic session. Please let us know as soon as possible if you know you will have to miss a class.

Because of the amount covered in each session of the *weekend class*, if you miss a session during a weekend class you will be required to switch to another class at a later date, and the \$40 change fee will be applied if notice is not given within 48 hours.

For the first missed class of a *weekly* session (scheduled or unscheduled) we will find an opportunity to make up the session in a separate class, or some other time that an instructor and facility are available. There is no charge for this first missed event. Any subsequent missed classes will be scheduled in a similar manner at a cost of \$65 per session.

For private, semi-private, or separately scheduled events, any missed classes will result in a charge based on a pro-rated portion of the tuition. This fee will not be assessed in the event that sufficient notice (a minimum of 5 days) is given so that no pool charges are incurred and there is a reasonable opportunity to schedule other events in that time slot.

Additional Required Sessions

We specialize in working with students to help them accomplish the goals of the program and become safe, confident, certified scuba divers. In the event that a participant cannot complete all the course requirements during the scheduled sessions, whether due to physical constraints or simply needing more work to complete the skills or coursework, an additional academic, pool or open water session will be scheduled. This requirement is at the discretion of the instructor based on the program standards. The additional sessions will be at a time agreed to by the participant and instructor, and subject to facility availability. There is no additional cost for the instruction for this additional session (as long as there have been no prior missed sessions as outlined above). Any sessions required beyond the one additional session will require an extra charge of \$65/session. For open water sessions, additional rental equipment charges apply.

Equipment for Continuing Education and Specialty Classes

For classes beyond the Open Water Diver Class, we provide tanks and weights for pool sessions as part of the class tuition. Tanks and weights for open water sessions and any other equipment must be rented or purchased, unless otherwise specified. Some classes have specific equipment requirements. See the applicable course fact sheet or inquire at the shop for details.