SPE Dive School, LLC

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Course Description & General Information for
Beginner SCUBA Diving Certification Training

Our SCUBA diving courses and dive trips have been customized and adapted specifically for the busy professional with limited time and scheduling flexibility.

The **Open Water SCUBA Certification Process** (entry level) consists of three components:
1- Academic studies & the in-person written quiz. 2- Pool training and 3- the actual four open water certification dives. Since the academic portion and the pool training are time-consuming, it is recommended that they should be completed before, not during your vacation. The academic studies typically take 14 hours, whilst the pool training takes approximately 7 hours on a Sunday afternoon at an indoor pool. The final requirement for certification includes the actual 4 dives in open water, which must be completed within 12 months, after successful completion of the pool and academic training, at a local lake, during your next vacation, or on a weekend Cayman trip.

COURSE ORIENTATION: Free of charge, conducted from 7 to 9 PM at one of our lecture rooms.
We highly recommend for all participants to attend any of our scheduled orientation sessions prior to proceeding with registration, since the session includes: a) Important information regarding the course, presented in detail; b) Valuable tips and information on personal gear selection & our discounted gear availability; c) How to arrange for the actual open water certification dives, dive travel and different options; d) Associated expenses and money-saving suggestions.
The above information is not included in your academic study materials.
It is not necessary to sign up for attending an orientation session, or to bring swimsuits with you. Please do not purchase any diving equipment before attending an orientation session.
The schedule of our course orientation dates is available on the "Calendar" page of: www.SCUBAedu.com, or you may click here. You are invited to bring along friends and family members.

ACADEMIC TRAINING: In order to avoid having group lectures at our facility classrooms, since the beginning of the ongoing world events (March 2020), we have been working with our participants on a one-on-one basis for the completion of the academic portion of the course. Therefore, you may get started as soon as you are available, regardless of the scheduled course dates and make progress at your own pace.
The most popular academic study option is the PADI online (eLearning), which more than 95% of our participants choose (or you may select the traditional "book + video" option).
It should take approximately 14 hours to complete your online studies. At that time, it would be your responsibility to make an appointment and meet with us in order to complete your application form, take the required "eLearning completion written review quiz" and get fitted for/purchase your personal gear. Please be informed that until the academic quiz has been completed, no one will be cleared for participation in the pool training. Click here to purchase a "Beginner Open Water" code.

LOCATION: Orientations sessions & academic meetings are held at our **Chevy Chase** (Friendship Heights) facility, located at: **4601 North Park Ave., Suite #13-C** (Arcade) near **Friendship Heights Metro**.

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PRE-REQUISITES: 12 years of age (children ages 10 & 11 may only have their pool training conducted privately), basic swimming ability, and good health required. Click here to view the medical forms

DOCUMENTATION & CERTIFICATION: Students successfully completing all academic and confined water work will receive a PADI open water international referral document, which is the prerequisite for participation in the 4 actual open water certification completion dives (the dives must be completed within 12 months from the completion date of the pool training). Upon completion of the 4 certification dives, participants become certified for life. PADI certifications are valid worldwide for buying air, renting dive gear, and participating in group/private dive expeditions. Your **PADI certification** does not expire & needs no renewal.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: All major SCUBA gear is supplied for the duration of the pool training, except for personal gear (mask, snorkel, fins, fin-booties, weight belt & wetsuit). Your personal gear MUST BE **"SCUBA-RATED"** and meet your instructor's approval ("snorkel-rated" gear is not accepted). For your convenience, a large selection of SCUBA diving equipment is available for purchase at discounted prices at our facility private showroom (**only** available to our students & their family members). As a service, our participants have the option to individually get fitted for and learn more about personal gear selection at the time they complete their required written academic quiz.

ENROLLMENT COST: $495 includes conducting and reviewing the required written academic quiz, pool training, use of the indoor pool and all major SCUBA gear for the duration of the pool training (cylinders, air-fills, regulators, gauges & BCD jackets) as well as a PADI open water referral document (upon request). Enrollment fee excludes the cost of the academic materials/code, personal gear, or any expenses associated with the open water certification dives.

OPEN WATER CERTIFICATION DIVES: Required for certification. There are three options for completing the 4 required open water dives: a) Complete the dives locally over two half-days on a weekend; b) join SPE Dive School on a Cayman Island trip (described below) at a time suitable to your schedule; c) Complete the dives on your personal vacation at your preferred destination by obtaining a PADI *open water referral document form* from SPE Dive School.

GRAND CAYMAN OPEN WATER CERTIFICATION DIVE TRIPS: A certification dive trip to Grand Cayman Island is offered monthly at the end of most courses for those who would like to complete their open water dives in the ***ultimate environment.*** In addition to Grand Cayman Island, other Caribbean trips with the FOMP Dive Club™ are offered several times a year. Cayman trips depart Washington, DC on Thursday (or Friday as long as you land in Grand Cayman before 11:25 AM) and you may return as early as Monday or stay as long as you wish. The schedule of our Cayman trips is available on the "Calendar" page of www.SCUBAedu.com, or you may click here. Friends/family members are always welcome to attend our Cayman trips, regardless of whether they dive or not.

ADVANCED & SPECIALTY SCUBA CERTIFICATIONS: Offered during all Grand Cayman Island trips. After completion of the dives required for open water certification, you may continue diving towards higher certification levels such as advanced open water, rescue diver, underwater photography, deep diver, night diver, wreck diver, research diver, etc. NOTE: Most of our students choose to complete the required dives for the open water *and* advanced open water certification during their Cayman Island weekend trip, as it is easily incorporated into the dive schedule. A Sunday stay is required in order to complete the advanced certification training dives.

PRIVATE CLASSES & DIVE TRIPS: Are available for individuals, families or groups, conducted at your preferred location and scheduled by appointment only.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
Course registration payments are non-refundable (for ANY reason), but may be applied towards a future course, if we are notified regarding your cancellation at least 7 days prior to your scheduled pool training date. Prices quoted based on availability and are subject to change without prior notice.