

1. SDI Texas Lone Star State Diver

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of the Texas Lone Star State Diver Unique Specialty is to encourage divers to explore the many exciting diving opportunities within the state of Texas by experiencing four different diving destinations within or bordering the state of Texas.

1.2 Who May Teach

An active SDI Instructor that has been certified to teach this specialty.

1.3 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic:

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter.

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions):

1. N/A.

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river, or estuary):

1. A maximum of eight students per instructor; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate.
2. Instructors have the option of adding 2 more students with the assistance of an active assistant. An active assistant may lead dives under the indirect supervision of the instructor at a maximum ratio of 4:1.
3. The total number of students an instructor may have under direct supervision in the water is 12 with the assistance of 2 active Assistant Instructors, Divemasters, or Instructors.

1.4 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 18, 10 with parental consent
2. Minimum certification is an SDI Open Water Scuba Diver or equivalent.

1.5 Course Structure and Duration

Academic:

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facilities, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter.

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions):

1. N/A.

Open Water Execution:

1. Open water execution dives are required with complete brief and debrief by the instructor.
2. Students will research each chosen dive site independently and complete a worksheet shown in the appendix. Before the dive, at each site, the instructor will lead a group review of the information found on the worksheet.
3. Four dives to be conducted in locations within the state of Texas or from a watercraft launched from a Texas shore, each at least 25 miles apart. Depth and duration will be appropriate to the location but not to exceed certification limits of the student(s).

Course Structure:

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level.

1.6 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students.
1. Ensure that the students have the required equipment.
2. Communicate the schedule to the students.
3. Have the students complete the:
 - a. *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form*
 - b. *SDI Medical Statement Form*

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the *SDI Diver Registration Form* to SDI Headquarters or registering the students online through member's area of the website.

1.7 Required Materials

The following materials are required for this course:

1. SDI Texas Lone Star State Location Worksheet (Located in Appendix A)

1.8 Required Equipment

The following equipment is required for this course:

1. All personal equipment required by the General Specialty Standard
2. Any special equipment required by the local environment such as cold-water thermal protection and submersible lights (primary, backup, and marker) for diving the Valhalla Missile Silo

1.9 Required Subject Areas

Instructors may use any materials they feel help in the presentation of the required subject areas.

The following topics must be covered during the course:

1. The student diver will research (via the Internet, magazines, books, or interviews) for each of the four dive locations to include:
 - a. The approximate date this site was built if human-made
 - b. When this site became a dive destination
 - c. Historical human interaction
 - d. Aquatic life
 - e. Entry techniques
 - f. Special considerations

1.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following skills:

1. A minimum of one dive at each of the four destinations, with each location at least 25 miles apart, within the border or bordering the state of Texas.
2. If dives will be conducted from a watercraft, divers must board from a Texas shore
3. Objectives to be met on each dive:
 - a. Gain appropriate entry to the location and sign all necessary releases and waivers
 - b. Bring, set-up and don gear appropriate for the destination
 - c. Plan and conduct a dive to include:
 - i. Safety measures for the destination
 - ii. Pre-dive Safety Check
 - iii. An entry appropriate for the environment

- iv. A tour of the underwater environment noting at least three underwater features unique to the site. These features can be aquatic life, natural formations, or human-made objects such as wrecks.
 - v. Safety Stop if appropriate
 - vi. An exit appropriate for the dive destination
- d. Log the dive with notes of the underwater features to be signed by the instructor

In order to complete this course, students must:

1. Complete all open water requirements safely and efficiently.
2. Demonstrate mature, sound judgment concerning dive planning and execution.

Appendix A:

SDI Texas Lone Star State Unique Diver

Location Worksheet

Location Name:

Facility entry location, open times, waivers, and any special requirements:

The approximate date this site was built if human-made:

When this site became a dive destination:

Known historical human interaction:

Aquatic life and underwater features expected:

Special environmental safety or gear considerations:

Plan for transporting gear to the dive site:

Entry and exit techniques: