

OCD Divers

Open Water Diver Course Guide



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General Information – Start Here

Please read the following general information, which will help to understand how the different course offerings work. This will aid you in selecting the best course to meet your individual or family needs. Scheduled times will be published on the online calendar.

Deadlines to Sign-Up for a Class

- Sign-up for classes in person with us by appointment or online by [clicking here](#). You will have the option to select a discounted personal gear package and we'll have it for you at your first pool session. Generally, you should be registered two weeks before a class starts to ensure time to complete independent study, select personal gear, and complete paperwork. If students have enough free time to be prepared, we may register students up to three days before the class starts.
- The medical form may require a doctor's signature, based on your health, so be sure to review it and reach-out to your primary care provider right away in case an appointment may be necessary.

Paperwork

As with any sporting program, there's some paperwork involved. Please read about what is required and plan accordingly so you can complete the program as scheduled.

Divers Information and Liability Releases

- We need some basic information to be able to register you in the class and, if applicable, process your registration and eLearning credentials.
- Basic information includes your contact information, date of birth, emergency contact, and to size equipment, we'll need to know your height and real weight. Please be honest about your weight as equipment is limited in different sizes.
- Liability releases for pool, equipment use, and courses are standard and sent via an online document signing service, PandaDoc.

Medical Release

- You should answer the questions honestly and the form shows whether you will need to see a medial professional for sign-off prior to any in-person sessions.
- While diving is not overly strenuous, you will be walking with over 50 pounds of gear and need to be able to perform a 200-yard swim test and 10-minute float/tread wearing basic swimwear.
- Please be sure you can handle the physical demands before enrolling.

Youth Divers / BSA Scouts

- We are focused on safety and evaluating divers; therefore, we cannot provide shore supervision for minors. Anyone under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
- 10-14 year old's will earn Junior-level certifications with some restrictions such as depth limits and diving with parents. We recommend students this age enroll in the eLearning version of knowledge development or if parents are also enrolled in the class and they prefer the book version, that they complete the independent study portion of the class together, as a family.
- 10-11 year old's may take a diving class but must be mature enough to follow rules and directions, and be physically strong enough to pass swim tests and walk comfortably with 50 pounds of gear.
- BSA Scouts completing the [Scuba Diving merit badge](#) will need to review badge requirements and be prepared to discuss or demonstrate. Visit our [page dedicated to BSA units](#) for detailed information about how we work with Troops, Crews, and Ships. Remember to open a Blue Card with your troop.

Information about Lake Fees, Personal Gear, Scuba Gear, Tanks, and Divemaster Tips

Lake Location and Fees

- Most of our classes are held at [The Scuba Ranch](#) in Terrell. It is a short drive from the DFW area and they have pavilions, flushing toilets, air fills, primitive and RV camping, showers, and gear rental. There's no boats allowed and no fishing so we don't have to worry about dive flags or encountering fishing line or hooks. It is a beautiful and dedicated location. Their entry fees are only \$20 a day payable online or at check-in. Reminder – be sure to complete their [online waiver](#) once a year to speed your entry.
- For classes scheduled on Mondays, when The Scuba Ranch is closed, we shift to another local lake, depending on the dives we are planning that day. Amenities and entry fees vary.

Personal Gear

- Divers are expected to have their own personal gear (fins, booties, mask, and snorkel) with them when they go to a diving destination. We request that our divers buy their personal gear through OCD Divers to ensure proper fit and quality. To make it more affordable, we offer 25% off personal gear to Open Water students.
- *Fins* – pushing gear through water requires SCUBA fins which are much more powerful than snorkeling fins. Be sure your fin is the right size. Our fins include spring straps.
- *Booties* – these come in short and tall types.
- *Mask* – SCUBA masks are tempered because they go deep, thus they are different than snorkeling masks. We offer split and single view masks.
- *Snorkel* – A SCUBA grade snorkel has venting and protection from waves.

SCUBA Gear for Open Water Classes

- Basic Dive Gear: For entire Open Water Diver courses, pool reActivations, and Discover Scuba pool sessions use of buoyancy compensator devices (BCDs), weights, regulators, and consoles with computers. OCD Divers transports gear to the lake for your use.
- If you add other classes to be completed during your Open Water program, there's no additional charge for gear. You're already at the lake too, so you don't have to pay a separate entry fee for another day or drive out another time. Multiple classes in the same weekend is a great way to save!

Tanks

- For Colleyville pool sessions, tanks and weights use are provided and included in the course tuition.
- For Open Water dives, you'll rent tanks at the lake. Especially when classes are full, transporting eight extra sets of scuba gear and tanks is a lot to try to fit into a vehicle's size and weight limits. Using on-site tanks allows your instructors to focus on safety, skills, and your enjoyment.
- Tanks - The Scuba Ranch only charges \$15 to rent a full tank for the day or \$25 for a weekend. Air fills are \$10 each. Most divers get two dives per tank, but some can get three dives.
- If you would prefer OCDivers to coordinate lake tanks, you have the option add additional \$39 rental charge per day when registering for your class.

Divemaster Tips

- Tipping Divemasters around 15% of a course cost is standard in the dive industry. They assist instructors with classes to help you with questions, gear, and watch over your safety when an instructor is working with another diver.
- You will have the option to add a tip on checkout, which will be passed on to the divemaster, or if you prefer to wait and see how they do first, they are always happy with cash at the end of a course.

Open Water Class Types Overview

This section contains general information about how the knowledge development, pool, and open water segments work.

Phase 1: Knowledge Development

- We use independent eLearning for our Open Water classes now. You'll need to complete all segments prior to your first pool session. While times vary by person, anticipate investing about nine hours into independent study and taking online quizzes.

Phases 2 & 3 Option A: Colleyville Pool Sessions / Destination Lake Open Water Dives

- We complete pool sessions over 2-3 sessions at our heated pool in Colleyville the week or weekend before lake sessions. Pool times are scheduled differently at different times of the year. Please see the calendar.
- The following weekend, we will meet at the dive site to complete the Open Water dives. If diving at The Scuba Ranch, you have the option to rent tanks there, but if other locations, please add the \$78 tank rental fee to your tuition because we will have to coordinate tanks.
- For those doing them, we'll complete Enriched Air and Buoyancy specialties Sunday.

Phased 2 & 3 Option B: One Weekend at the Scuba Ranch for Pool and Open Water Dives

- This is a great opportunity to complete your course over one weekend and is a fantastic option for scout troops, especially those coming from out of town.
- You'll rent your tank from TSR for the weekend and there will be a \$20 additional pool fee due at check-in.
- Arrive at The Scuba Ranch Friday evening and set up tents to camp for the weekend or drive out Saturday morning, arriving at 7:30 AM to get checked-in.
- Saturday 8 AM – 7 PM:
 - We start at our pavilion at 8:00 AM where we finalize knowledge development, fit gear, learn to assemble gear, complete swim tests, snorkel, skin dive, clear masks, and learn about compasses.
 - We will complete knowledge reviews for Advanced Buoyancy Control and Enriched Air course options, as well as Enriched Air tank analysis and dive planning.
 - At 11:15 we'll have a 30-minute lunch break.
 - At noon sharp, we start four continuous hours of focused pool work to learn skills.
 - Finally, after a break around 4:00 PM, while getting air fills, we complete two open water dives and surface skills in the lake.
- Sunday starting at 8:00 AM:
 - We will complete the last two open water dives.
 - Advanced Buoyancy Control – we take over OW dive 4 for PPB and have one additional dive.

Referral Classes Knowledge and Pool, no Lake Dives or Certification

- We offer Open Water referral courses, which means you complete the knowledge and pool work with us and give you referral paperwork to take to your tropical destination.
- These are options when it is too cold to dive locally or if you have a tight timeframe. It is usually more cost effective to go this route and then you aren't in a classroom or pool when you're in Mexico, Hawaii, or somewhere else where you would rather be enjoying your vacation!
- You will be responsible for connecting with and paying separate fees to a dive shop at your destination to complete your Open Water requirements.

Private Classes Overview – Scheduled for You

- If you have a difficult schedule or a group that you would like to book together for an exclusive group, this is the class for you. This is also a good option for divers who are nervous about larger groups and want more individualized attention.
- Pricing is determined by the size of your group.
- You will complete the independent knowledge development elements.
- We schedule pool and lake sessions to meet your needs. Pool sessions are normally weeknights with some Fridays available May-July. Lake dives are normally scheduled when classes are already diving so you may join other divers at The Scuba Ranch.

Refresh Classes – 2 Hours

- If you are a certified diver and it has been more than a year since your last dive, this is your course!
- Knowledge elements are all completed via eLearning.
- Skills elements are completed either in the pool, at the lake, or both!

Try Scuba Experience (pool) – 2 Hours

- If you are curious if SCUBA diving is for you but you don't know for sure, try it!
- We watch a short video and move to the pool for some basic skills, then you can pool dive for a half hour, to play, practice, and sample diving in a safe environment.
- This is not a certification course, but if you decide to continue-on with an Open Water course, you can apply what you have learned toward your certification.

Same Weekend as Open Water Diver Additional Class Options

When you add-on additional certification classes during your Open Water program, you can gain additional skills, get a discount, avoid additional lake fees, and avoid gear rental fees. We integrate one class into your Open Water Course and complete others after Open Water Certified on lake day 2.

Computer Nitrox Diver

- Why go to a tropical destination, dive in the morning, and be tired in the afternoon when you can dive enriched air?
- This class is recommended for all divers and strongly recommend for anyone over age 30.
- The air in our atmosphere is approximately 79% nitrogen (N₂) and 21% oxygen (O₂). An enriched air tank contains air blended with pure O₂, typically increasing O₂ between 32% to 36%. Absorbing less N₂ while diving greatly diminishes post-dive fatigue. Dive longer, more safely, and feel more energized so you can enjoy all your vacation time!
- When conducted during Open Water Diver we complete this class on the first night session and you get a nice discount! No dives are required and when you complete your Open Water certification, this certification is awarded too.

Peak Buoyancy Diver

- This specialty will equip you with better control in the water, advanced techniques, more confidence, and a strong ability to protect the underwater aquatic environment. It is also fun to do with a gaming aspect built-into the class.
- When you go to a diving destination for several days, Divemasters will be watching how well you control your buoyancy on your first day and how well you keep their reefs safe. If you have great buoyancy control, you might just find you have better reefs to dive on subsequent days!
- Having good buoyancy control is also a key to longer dives because it helps with your air consumption rate. If you're paying thousands of dollars to travel to a tropical destination, you'll want to get every minute you can underwater.

Underwater Photography Diver

- As the saying goes, leave only bubbles, and take only pictures! It is easy and fun to capture images and videos of your underwater scuba diving adventures. This class also features a workshop to download photos from the camera to a smart phone, edit, save to Dropbox, and if you want, share to social media.
- We use a Sealife Micro 3.0 Camera with full light kits, which is arguably the best personal dive camera on the market.
- If you want to learn techniques to take great underwater photos to have memories of your trips and share with others, this class is a fantastic and fun addition to your weekend. Plus, you'll get to have photos of your dive class!

Open Water Class Types Details

This section contains specific information about how these classes work and see a true picture of the costs. Like any hobby, it is an investment, and you'll leave with skills you can use for the rest of your life! Optional classes are a great way to gain additional skills and certifications while saving on the courses themselves, saving time, saving lake fees, and saving on equipment rental.

Group Colleyville Pool, Separate Lake Dives

- Ages 10 and up, limited to 10 divers per class, maximum of four under age 12 in the group.
- Tuition and Fees:
 - Open Water tuition per person: \$399
 - Optional add-on classes tuition per person:

Certification	Tuition	You Save
Computer Nitrox	\$189	\$30
Advanced Buoyancy	\$129	\$80
Digital Underwater Photography	\$189	\$80

- Please see the section titled [Information about Lake Fees, Personal Gear, Scuba Gear, Tank, and Divemaster Tips](#) for details about those costs, and what's included or not in the course tuition.
Note: Because tank rental is not available there, the Tank rental of \$78 for the weekend is required for locations other than The Scuba Ranch, where students can rent on-site themselves.
- Before Class Independent study – about nine hours of elearning, which must be totally complete before proceeding.
- Pool Session(s)
 - In the cold season, this will be one day. In warm months, this will be over three weeknights.
 - Answer any questions, learn gear assembly and equipment care.
 - Complete the swim test (distance, not timed) and float for 10 minutes.
 - Complete confined water sessions to learn the skills.
- Lake Weekend: Saturday and Sunday, sometimes Friday is an option too.
 - Locations vary by season – see the schedule online.
 - Day 1: Open Water Dives 1 - 3.
 - Day 2: Open Water Dive 4 – you're certified!
- Options:
 - Day 2: Buoyancy dive 2 – you're PPB certified!
 - Day 2: After OW finishes: Computer Nitrox practical skills.
 - Day 2: Digital Underwater Photography dive 2 – you're photography certified!
 - Day 3: (sometimes offered in the summer): Finish Advanced Adventurer Diver (3 more dives)

Group One Weekender with Campout Option or drive back and forth

- This is an excellent option for Scout Units or those who want to minimize trips. We do the same “stuff” for the same amount of time. It just happens in one weekend instead of spreading it out.
- Ages 10 and up, limited to 8 divers per class, maximum of four under age 12 in the group.
 - Open Water tuition per person: \$399
 - Optional add-on classes tuition per person:

Certification	Tuition	You Save
Computer Nitrox	\$189	\$30
Advanced Buoyancy	\$129	\$80
Digital Underwater Photography	\$189	\$80

- Please see the section titled [Information about Lake Fees, Personal Gear, Scuba Gear, Tank, and Divemaster Tips](#) for details about those costs, and what’s included or not in the course tuition. Note there is an additional \$20 fee to the Scuba Ranch for the onsite pool admission.
- Before Class Independent study – about 10-12 hours of pre-work:
 - Open Water – Book, reviews, and video; or eLearning.
 - Optional: Computer Nitrox– ELearning, reviews, and video; or eLearning.
 - Optional: Digital Underwater Photography – ELearning and reviews; or eLearning.
 - Arrive at The Scuba Ranch Friday evening and set up tents to camp for the weekend or drive out Saturday morning, arriving at 7:30 AM to get checked-in.
- Saturday 8 AM – 7 PM:
 - We start at our pavilion at 8:00 AM where we finalize knowledge development, fit gear, learn to assemble gear, complete swim tests, snorkel, skin dive, clear masks, and learn about compasses.
 - We will complete knowledge reviews for Advanced Buoyancy Control and Enriched Air course options, as well as Enriched Air tank analysis and dive planning.
 - At 11:15 we’ll have a 30 minute lunch break.
 - At noon sharp, we start four continuous hours of focused pool work to learn skills.
 - Finally, after a break around 4:00 PM, while getting air fills, we complete two open water dives and surface skills in the lake.
- Sunday starting at 8:00 AM:
 - We will complete the last two open water dives.
 - Advanced Buoyancy Control – we take over OW dive 4 for PPB and have one additional dive.

Group Referral Details – One Weekend

- Ages 10 and up, limited to 8 divers per class.
 - Complete your knowledge development and pool dives with us and travel to a tropical destination to complete your Open Water Dives and certification processing. Fees charged by the destination resort or instructor are not included.
 - Tuition and Lake Fees:
 - Open Water Referral tuition per person: \$299
 - Optional add-on classes tuition per person:
- | Certification | Tuition | You Save |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Enriched Air Nitrox | \$189 | \$30 |
| Digital Underwater Photography Level 1 (pool only, no lake dives) | \$169 | \$100 |
- Please see the section titled [Information about Lake Fees, Personal Gear, Scuba Gear, Tank, and Divemaster Tips](#) for details about those costs, and what’s included or not in the course tuition.
 - Independent study Knowledge – about 10-13 hours of pre-work:
 - Open Water – Book, reviews, and video; or eLearning.
 - Optional: Computer Nitrox– Book, reviews, and video; or eLearning.
 - Optional: Digital Underwater Photography – Book and reviews; or eLearning.
 - At the Colleyville Pool
 - Meet in person answer any questions.
 - eLearners only: Complete quick knowledge review(s).
 - Learn how to assemble and care for gear.
 - No time requirement swim test and float/tread for 10 minutes.
 - Optional: Computer Nitrox practical skills.
 - Optional: Digital underwater photography editing skills.
 - Pool Schedule will follow either the Traditional or Express Schedule for that weekend.
 - You complete your Open Water Dives with a destination resort and are Open Water Diver Certified!
Reminder: the referral course does not include fees charged by the destination resort.

Optional: We process your Computer Nitrox Diver or Digital Underwater Photography Level 1 Certification after your referral resort processes your Open Water Diver Certification.

Private Group or Individual Open Water Class Details – Scheduled for You

- For Busy People, We Create a Schedule to Meet Your Needs!
- Tuition and Lake Fees:
 - Open Water Diver Certification tuition per person:

Your Group Size	Tuition
1-2 Divers	\$699
3-4 Divers	\$599
5-6 Divers	\$499
7-8 Divers	\$399

Referral course option: \$100 less, see [referral overview](#).

- Optional add-on classes tuition per person:

Certification	Tuition	You Save
Enriched Air Nitrox	\$189	\$30
Advanced Buoyancy Control	\$129	\$80
Digital Underwater Photography	\$189	\$80
- Please see the section titled [Information about Lake Fees, Personal Gear, Scuba Gear, Tank, and Divemaster Tips](#) for details about those costs, and what's included or not in the course tuition.
- Independent study Knowledge – about nine hours of pre-work:
 - eLearning – complete the online program as assigned.
 - Optional: Computer Nitrox– complete eLearning.
 - Optional: Advanced Buoyancy Control – Read supplied materials.
- Knowledge Finalization and Pool scheduled as you need on evenings and weekends, based on availability.
- Lake dives scheduled on weekend days to meet your needs, with preference to days we are already at the lake. These dives may include other divers.

Group or Private reActivate Details – Two Hours

- For already certified divers who have not been diving in more than a year
- Must have certification card or be able to be found in your agency’s system
- Tuition and Fees:

- Reactivate tuition per person:

Location	Scheduled	Private Group
Pool Only	\$179	\$239
Lake Only	\$179	\$239
Pool and One Lake Dive	\$229	\$279

- Optional add-on classes tuition per person:

Certification	Lake Dive Required?	Tuition	You Save
Enriched Air Nitrox	No	\$189	\$30
Advanced Buoyancy Control	No	\$129	\$80
Digital Underwater Photography	Yes	\$189	\$80

- Please see the section titled [Information about Lake Fees, Personal Gear, Scuba Gear, Tank, and Divemaster Tips](#) for details about those costs, and what’s included or not in the course tuition.
- Knowledge Refresh Pre-Work:
 - Not required, but eLearning is available if you want to.
- Skills Development
 - Completed at the Colleyville pool or/and at The Scuba Ranch.
 - Refresh gear assembly and key diving skills.
- Scheduling
 - 2 hours in person.
 - Offered on Scheduled Dates and on-demand, typically on weeknights.
 - Lake times are available weekends when lake classes are scheduled.

Group or Private Discover Scuba – Two Hours

- For people who want to try Scuba diving but aren’t ready to take the plunge.
- This is not a certification course, but we can count the pool or lake dives toward a certification later.
- Tuition and Fees:

- Discover tuition per person:

Location	Scheduled	Private Group
Pool Only	\$49	\$69
Pool and One Lake Dive	\$99	\$119

- Please see the section titled [Information about Lake Fees, Personal Gear, Scuba Gear, Tank, and Divemaster Tips](#) for details about those costs, and what’s included or not in the course tuition.
- Scheduling
 - 2 hours in person at the Colleyville pool.
 - Offered on Scheduled Dates and on-demand, typically on weeknights.
 - Lake times are available weekends when lake classes are scheduled.