BLUE ASCENT

VETERAN PARTICIPATION AND OCEAN WELLNESS AGREEMENT

Galeras Ocean Beach Foundation for Veterans
Las Galeras, Samaná, Dominican Republic

Website and participant information edition

Blue Ascent is an ocean wellness, scuba education and marine conservation initiative serving United States military veterans. The following 18 articles explain program eligibility, participant rights and responsibilities, safety standards, available benefits and participation conditions. This document is intended for public review; it does not replace an individually executed agreement or activity-specific safety forms.

Important notice: Participation is voluntary, subject to eligibility, capacity, available resources and applicable restrictions. Blue Ascent is not a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs entitlement or guaranteed benefit. Ocean wellness activities do not substitute for professional medical care.

ARTICLE 1 - PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

For an individual enrollment agreement, the veteran shall provide: full legal name, date of birth, telephone, email, military branch, emergency contact and telephone number, and program start/end dates. Personal data should be collected securely through the Foundation’s enrollment process rather than posted publicly.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

Blue Ascent seeks to support camaraderie, resilience, personal confidence, physical activity, water safety, scuba education, marine conservation, purpose and service. The program offers structured, professionally supervised ocean experiences. No particular physical, psychiatric, or clinical outcome is guaranteed.

ARTICLE 3 - MEDICAL SERVICES AND OCEAN WELLNESS

The Foundation manages ocean wellness, scuba education arrangements and conservation activities. EJE MEDIC SPA/EJE MEDIC GROUP independently provides or coordinates licensed clinical services, including medical evaluation, psychotherapy and physical therapy, when separately arranged. Clinical decisions remain with the veteran and qualified treating professionals. Foundation participation does not require treatment from EJE MEDIC SPA/EJE MEDIC GROUP or any specific provider; Foundation activities are not a replacement for medical care.

ARTICLE 4 - VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Participation is voluntary. The Foundation may apply written eligibility standards consistent with its charitable mission, resources, capacity and safety needs. Admission does not create an entitlement to future participation, travel, lodging, scuba training or financial support. The Foundation may change schedules or restrict activities for legitimate safety, operational or funding reasons, subject to applicable law and nondiscrimination requirements.

ARTICLE 5 - SCUBA DIVING AND WATER SAFETY

Participants must follow lawful, reasonable instructions from qualified instructors and operational safety personnel; complete required medical screening and clearance; accurately disclose relevant safety information; stay within their certification, training and planned depth; check and use equipment correctly; observe buddy procedures; report unsafe conditions; avoid diving when impaired or medically unfit; and protect marine life and reefs. Authorized dive professionals may cancel or stop unsafe dives. A participant may decline any dive they consider unsafe.

ARTICLE 6 - SCUBA CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION

Subject to written approval and funding, the Foundation may sponsor introductory scuba, Open Water, Advanced Open Water, Rescue Diver, specialty and conservation training. Certification depends on successful completion of the applicable training agency’s requirements and is not guaranteed. Divemaster and other professional-level training require separate written sponsorship approval.

ARTICLE 7 - CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Participants may undertake reef education, conservation surveys, marine debris removal, nursery observation, monitoring and photographic documentation. Coral handling, propagation, nursery installation or outplanting may occur only with appropriate permissions, scientific oversight, training and safety supervision. Program participation does not authorize independent collection of marine organisms or alteration of protected habitats.

ARTICLE 8 - PARTICIPANT CONDUCT

Participants shall treat others with dignity and respect. Threats, violence, harassment, deliberate disobedience of essential safety instructions, reckless conduct, intentional reef damage, theft or misuse of equipment and safety-sensitive activity under impairment are prohibited. The Foundation may use proportionate, documented corrective measures, including temporary suspension or removal when necessary. Serious imminent safety concerns may justify immediate action.

ARTICLE 9 - HEALTH, WELLNESS AND PERSONAL SAFETY

Ocean recreation involves inherent hazards, including currents, changing weather, pressure effects, boat operations, marine life and equipment failure. The Foundation will maintain suitable safety procedures but cannot eliminate all risks. Veterans shall report relevant fitness concerns to appropriate personnel. Health information shall be handled confidentially and limited to what is reasonably necessary for safe participation.

ARTICLE 10 - EMERGENCIES AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The Foundation may activate its emergency plan, contact emergency responders and coordinate evacuation or transportation when warranted. Licensed medical professionals retain medical decision-making authority. Participants shall provide current emergency contacts and required insurance details. Payment responsibility for emergency services, evacuation and other costs must be specified in a separate written benefits/insurance schedule; Foundation payment is not automatically guaranteed.

ARTICLE 11 - PROGRAM FUNDING AND BENEFITS

Subject to available charitable funds and written eligibility rules, the Foundation may cover approved scuba instruction, equipment rental, boat transportation, marine conservation sessions and related activities. Travel, accommodations, meals, personal equipment and other expenses are covered only when listed in an individualized written benefits schedule. Participation alone does not entitle a veteran to cash payments or reimbursement.

ARTICLE 12 - EQUIPMENT AND FOUNDATION PROPERTY

Participants shall take reasonable care of assigned equipment, return it as directed and report any damage, loss or malfunction promptly. Any proposed participant charge must comply with an applicable written equipment policy and governing law; ordinary wear, nonparticipant-caused failure or unavoidable damage is not automatically chargeable.

ARTICLE 13 - PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The Foundation shall protect participant information under applicable privacy law. Clinical records remain under the responsibility of the clinic or treating professional. The Foundation will ordinarily request only activity-relevant fitness clearances or restrictions, not complete clinical files. Health-data sharing requires an appropriate lawful basis and authorizations as applicable. Use of images, videos and testimonials for publicity requires separate voluntary consent, and refusal will not itself bar participation.

ARTICLE 14 - PROGRAM SAFETY DECISIONS

The Foundation has operational authority over vessels, equipment and ocean activities. Captains, instructors, divemasters and authorized safety personnel may change, postpone or cancel activities based on sea conditions, staffing, equipment or participant safety. Veterans must comply with reasonable safety directions and may raise concerns or decline an activity without retaliation.

ARTICLE 15 - VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

A veteran may withdraw at any time. When practicable, they should notify the Foundation to permit safe coordination of transport, group supervision and equipment. Withdrawal from Foundation activities does not interfere with the veteran’s independent access to medical services.

ARTICLE 16 - RISK ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND LEGAL RIGHTS

Participants will receive applicable activity-specific risk disclosures, training documents and informed-consent materials. This public document does not itself serve as a legally enforceable liability waiver. No provision is intended to remove rights or duties that cannot lawfully be waived. Any separate release must be reviewed under applicable Dominican law.

ARTICLE 17 - PROGRAM COMMUNICATIONS

Veterans may voluntarily tell others about Blue Ascent. There is no requirement to recruit participants or refer patients, and this agreement does not offer referral commissions, recruitment bonuses or payments tied to medical services. Interested veterans may contact the Foundation independently for information.

ARTICLE 18 - ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE

Before participating, each veteran should review and sign their individual agreement acknowledging the program mission, voluntary nature, activity hazards, safety rules, conditional benefits, distinct responsibilities of the Foundation and clinic, and the opportunity to ask questions. Separate medical screening, scuba training and activity-specific forms remain mandatory where applicable.

INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURES (FOR ENROLLMENT COPY)

Veteran full name: _____
Veteran signature: _____ Date: _____
Foundation authorized representative: _____
Title: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

ATTACHMENT A - APPROVED PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Approved scuba courses: _____
Conservation training: _____
Equipment / boat transportation: _____
Lodging / travel (if any): _____
Insurance and emergency-cost responsibilities: _____
Other restrictions: _____

ATTACHMENT B - REQUIRED ENROLLMENT DOCUMENTS

- Veteran eligibility verification and emergency contact information
- Activity-appropriate health screening and medical clearance where indicated
- Current scuba certification (if required for selected activities)
- Safety orientation and activity-specific informed consent
- Insurance / emergency coverage acknowledgment and written benefits schedule
- Optional, separate photo and publicity consent

DIVE DEEP. HEAL STRONG. RISE TOGETHER.

Legal note: This is a draft for public information and proposed participant enrollment. Obtain Dominican legal review of privacy, insurance, risk, participant conduct and waiver terms before publication or execution.