

High Adventure for Venture Crews: Are you interested in scuba or snorkeling?

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High Adventure for Venture Crews: Scuba and Snorkeling

Introduction:

Venture Crews can be formed around scuba and snorkeling or can use these as a theme for a High Adventure activity. Scuba and snorkeling are combined in this document because scuba is not for everyone, but snorkeling can be. Scuba has costs associated with it that snorkeling does not. Scuba is also an activity someone just may not want to do. Generally, if a group is going scuba diving, snorkeling is a companion activity thus this combination provides added opportunity and flexibility for a Venture Crew during their planning and implementation.

The following provides an overview of activities that a Venture Crew might be interested in. Following the overview are details that fill in these activities. The last section is a local SDIC resource directory that will help the Venture Crew move ahead in their planning more quickly than if they had to research it all themselves.

Please note that there are many references to Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) courses. This is because the author (David Smith) is associated with PADI as an instructor. He is not qualified to speak for other agencies that do provide opportunity for snorkeling and diving.

Overview

There are three basic types of *High Adventure* that Venture Crews might pursue regarding scuba and snorkeling. These are:

1. **Short term.** This is an activity such as having everyone interested become certified divers and do some local dives. This is short term because the resources are immediately available and in reality can be done in two weekends or during one week. The activity can be spread out without harming the value of the activity, but stretching it over more than two months will lessen the quality of the final experience because too much time passes during the stages of instruction for effective learning. Or, too much time between the completion of instruction and ultimately the diving to be a satisfying experience.
2. **Nine month.** This would be something such as everyone getting certified to dive, train to advanced diver certification, do 10 dives together locally, then going on a dive boat trip to Catalina Island. This is “less than a year” only in that the compression of the activity described above into “less than a year” makes the activity a focused plan rather than stringing it out and never really “accomplishing” a final goal.
3. **Long Term.** Venture Crews might have Scuba and Snorkeling as their overall Theme. Just as a Venture Crew could be a “law enforcement” themed Crew and devote most of their energy and time to this theme, a Venture Crew could spend most of its time involved in scuba and snorkeling and have this as their theme. The great thing about this is that scuba and snorkeling can take up most of the time if desired, but also can be fully integrated into more activities such as camping (camp at a dive site), travel (take a trip to a dive destination), and so on...

The step now is for the Venture Crew to decide which of these three general categories is where they would like to begin. They may end up somewhere else, but they need to decide on their general feelings about approaching scuba and snorkeling and their Crew. The details that follow will help flesh out this feeling, but take the pulse of the crew on the above as a needed first step.

There are other categories and combinations as will be seen in the following.

Short Term Activities

1. “Discover Scuba” is an event put on by a dive shop, completed within a day. This is a first step; a very short-term program. The purpose of this course is to allow individuals to experience diving in a very basic and safe environment. This involves the Crew finding a dive instructor who will lead the crew through basic diving in a swimming pool. Snorkeling can be included as well. This is a one day event and usually is no-or-low cost. Sports Chalet does these regularly as well as other dive shops such as Dive California. Easiest is to join a public Discover Scuba rather than attempt to have a special course, but perhaps the special course would work out. See the resource page. Call any of the dive shops listed and ask them about Discover Scuba.
2. The next level of Short Term Activities would be Discover Scuba Diving (<https://www.padi.com/scuba-diving/padi-courses/course-catalog/try-scuba-diving/>). Note the word “diving” has been added. Crew members will actually do a dive in an open water environment, locally usually La Jolla Shores. The instructor (same group of resources as above) provides more education and supervises the new divers very closely during the dive. These divers are not certified to dive alone when done; they can do another Discover Scuba Diving. This experience can count towards full certification if the diver wants to pursue that. This activity will have a cost as it will require instructor time and dive equipment unlikely to be owned by the crew members.
3. Moving “up” in order, the next activity that can be considered short term is for the crew to become **certified divers**, earning what is generally known as certified open water diver certification. (<http://www.padi.com/scuba/padi-courses/diver-level-courses/view-all-padi-courses/open-water-diver/default.aspx>). As mentioned in the overview, this can be done in a very short time period and as a matter of effectiveness should not be spread out too much anyway. Becoming certified requires “book learning”, “pool experience”, and “open water diving”. These three parts can overlap.

NOTE: Scuba Certification and Equipment is NOT cheap, nor should be done on the cheap since your life depends on it... Research costs FIRST before getting too excited.

- a. First you find an instructor appropriate to what you want to accomplish and how you want to accomplish this. Usually you start with a dive shop, but there are independent instructors not associated with a dive shop.
 - i. You might want to join a public class, especially if there is an “off season discount”, usually during the winter months in San Diego.
 - ii. With sufficient numbers, probably 8 students, a special class might be possible and possibly with off season discounts.
 - iii. **A note of warning on costs.** Scuba certification is actually already an incredibly discounted program given the value received. Expect about \$300 per student or so which may or may not include materials and gear. The resource section will have additional information. The main point here is the

student learns to dive: how to survive underwater. How much would professional golf lessons cost to really learn golf? Or skiing? Or tennis? Or art? Etc... Be prepared for this cost and understand the value received. Scuba shops and instructors may have already discounted for Scouts, so ask them, but expecting discounts may be inappropriate given the low-cost for the large benefit already there.

- b. The book learning can be done individually online, as a group using self-study materials and online, or in a classroom setting. With all three methods, the instructor is responsible for checking if each crew member learned the material in order to proceed. The material is not difficult, and the instruction material is well organized and field tested to be efficient and effective learning.
 - c. The pool sessions, usually four, are to teach and test skills in a safe environment. The most efficient way to do the pool sessions is at a dive shop with a pool right there so that equipment is easily accessed and problems solved quickly. The second best might be a dive shop with a mobile gear van and can use any pool that fits the training standards (one end shallow enough to stand in, the other end deep enough to not stand in at all – say 8 feet deep. The pool should also have easy in and out when wearing gear such as steps rather than just ladders, although this can work). One subpoint on the pool is that having a cold one is not a bad idea since this will acclimate the student to wearing gear sufficient for warmth needed when they do the cold La Jolla Shores dives for the open water sessions.
 - d. The open water sessions are actually in a “confined water environment” meaning that the site is safe for teaching and testing. Large waves are inappropriate for example. These sessions are for further teaching in that they take the skills mastered in the pool (such as attaining neutral buoyancy or removing and replacing one’s mask underwater) and are heightened by mastering them further in the new environment. The mastery of the skill is determined by the instructor; there is no formal skills test except the instructor knows when the student has mastered the skill. It may take a few lessons on the skill both in the pool and in the confined water to establish this mastery. Each of these sessions is followed by a guided tour around the site, safely monitored and guided by the instructor. You get to dive fairly soon into the course!
 - e. Completing the above allows the newly minted “open water scuba diver” to buy dive gear, get air tanks, and dive unsupervised. The caveat is that they are on their own; they may not want to do this on their own for a while and for that reason, many divers continue their experience under professional supervision. They are taught, of course, to dive only to the level of their training and not beyond.
 - f. If any crew members are still in the merit badge mode, this is the bulk of the scuba merit badge. Make sure they have a MB counselor. See below for Merit Badge Counselor Information.
4. Now that all of the crew are certified divers, a next level of short term activity would be to do some local dives. Probably the best way is to hook into the regular dives a shop provides

with supervision. This is also an easy way to try out different gear by being counseled by the dive shop. If the crew is already certified, you have skipped one through three above, and now your activity would be doing some diving. Call the shops and find out what they are doing: shore, boat, trip? And get diving.

5. Service projects are now very possible! An underwater clean up can be coordinated, especially with Project AWARE (<http://www.padi.com/scuba/about-padi/padi-partners/project-aware/default.aspx>) which provides structure for these type of projects. Underwater maintenance of camp moorings and docks could be a service project. Planting and maintaining underwater geocaches (<http://geoscouting.com/> and <https://www.geocaching.com/blog/2015/08/the-wild-world-of-underwater-geocaches/>) would be interesting to some. Think outside the box!

Nine Months

Note that the reason this is called “nine months” is to emphasize it is a Activity that would last the whole year for a Crew, but not usually more than a year from planning to completion. This is not a hard and fast rule, just a way to gauge the commitment required and so the vision fits the goals and vice versa.

These activities are described below in a subjective order of how “High Adventure” they are. This is also an indicator of the difficulty in fully embracing and completing the activity. It also may indicate the financial and time commitment that is commensurate with the “highness of the adventure.” The goal here is to help Crews understand the scope of the idea to avoid future surprise and/or disappointed if possible.

All of this section assumes all are certified divers or includes that as the first step (it might bear mentioning again) and snorkeling is also considered for the non-divers (or agree to exclusion of those crew members not certified, if any).

1. The scuba industry has lots of parts, many of which are represented in SDIC’s coverage area. The Crew, rather than diving or in addition to diving, could examine these aspects. Activities could include visiting dive shops to learn how they are managed, equipment repair centers to delve into that, Scripps Institute to see what they are up to, NOAA for their activities, and Navy SEALs. A nice schedule of activities can be put together to look at scuba from various points of view.
2. Scuba diving has skill levels. (<https://www.padi.com/scuba/padi-courses/diver-level-courses/view-all-padi-courses/default.aspx>) The basic is “open water diver”. The next is “advanced open water diver” followed by “rescue diver”. This activity takes all certified divers to at least “advanced open water diver” through organized instruction. Find this instruction similar to “short term” above to get certified. The key here, though, that makes this longer term is to then complete 10 dives as a group so as to ensure group cohesion and participation. This could be coordinated with a dive shop that does regular day dives at La Jolla Shores, for example. This would be followed by a great, but short, trip such as a boat dive weekend. An example of this would be Truth Aquatics (<http://www.truthaquatics.com/>) out of Santa Barbara going on a three-day trip staying on their boat the whole time and diving the Channel Islands. The crew activity for this is all of the steps for advancement, doing dives, and the trip. There is lots of planning and action in this activity. Please ensure adherence to Youth Protection: check with the operator well in advance.
3. Scuba diving has lots of “sub interests” called “specialties” that a certified diver can pursue. Some great ones are “underwater photography”, “search and recovery”, “deep diver”, and night diver to name just a very few. This activity focuses on one or two specialties. The already certified divers agree on what specialty to pursue (one at a time is best) and plan the way to get this done. Along with the specialty might be ancillary activities. “Fish Identification” specialty could include a trip to Scripps Aquarium. “Deep diving” might have the crew visit a decompression chamber (<http://healthsciences.ucsd.edu/som/emergency->

med/divisions/hyperbaric/pages/default.aspx) used to treat divers who may not have gone deep safely. The learning of the specialty requires dives. Once the specialty is earned, then a higher adventure trip such as above could be themed around that specialty: most of the diving focused on that subject such as underwater photography.

Here is a sample Worksheet on Costs for Diving Certification

Vendor	Option	Comments	Base Cost
Sample Dive Shop	Full Course in San Diego	Not self study	\$399
Item	Required or Optional	Cost or Included (0)?	Comments
PADI Open Water Manual	Required	0	
Log Book	Required	0	
Recreational Diving Tables	Required	0	
PADI Open Water Diving Video or DVD	Required	0	
			Mask Snorkel Fin Boots Gloves Package: student owns these
Mask	Required	195	
Snorkel	Required	0	
Fins	Required	0	
Dive boots	Required	0	
Dive Gloves	Required	0	
Buoyancy compensating device	Required	0	
Adequate exposure protection (wetsuit or drysuit)	Required	0	
Personal Mouthpiece	Required	5	
Regulator	Required	0	
Timing Device	Required	0	
Air Fills	Required	0	
Tanks	Required	0	
Weights	Required	60	
Online study fee	Optional	0	
PADI Certification Fee	Required	0	
DAN Dive Insurance	Optional	90	Included during course only

This is to give you an idea of how to compare various ways of accomplishing certification.

High Adventure

This section describes some of the peak experiences in scuba and snorkeling. Certainly they are advanced ideas and do require commitment that really should take a year or more of planning and preparation to accomplish. High performance crews could complete these faster, but most crews will need team development and leadership to accomplish these.

1. Obviously, there is a trip to Florida Sea Base since it is listed as a High Adventure Base, and rightly so (<http://www.bsaseabase.org/>). This experience actually can be for those who wish to become certified since one program at Sea Base includes that instruction. In many ways, the experience is likely best for divers already certified in order to get out diving and experiencing all the program has to offer as fast as possible. Of course, in the summer the water is a lot warmer and more comfortable than learning at La Jolla Shores... there is that aspect (especially if one is not going to dive cold water anyway... as many “vacation only” divers do warm water only.) See their material online for more information. In general, the issues are cost, time, adult leadership, travel, and diving proficiency. Much like a Philmont Trek involves all of this, just on the water. Highly recommended.
2. Not so obvious is the ability to emulate the Florida Sea Base experience on your own. After all, there are plenty of dive boats in Florida if a trip to Florida is desired, or along the entire U.S. Coastline. Each location will provide its own experience. Florida has fresh water springs (<http://www.floridasprings.org/visit/>) great for diving as well and this can be trip on its own or an aspect of a trip. Snorkeling with the manatees (<http://www.snorkelwithmanatees.com/>) in the winter months is popular in Florida. There are other trips to take, too, inland: Bonneville Sea Base (<http://www.seabase.net/>) in Utah has warm water year round. The key is that these trips should be a week or more of diving and have the additional joy of travelling together to and from.
3. In development is the Catalina Advanced Scuba Experience (CASE) which will make it easy for SDIC divers to participate in *High Adventure* scuba locally. CASE, will include advanced diving instruction, lots of diving, field trips of interest, service projects, and leadership development. See that section below for further information.
4. And why not go foreign? Plenty of great vacation spots have great diving. The High Adventure would be a multi-faceted travel adventure as well. An “easy” trip is to Cozumel since Frontier Airlines flies from San Diego to Cozumel via Denver with pretty reasonable fares. Cozumel is relatively inexpensive to stay, eat, and dive. The Mayan experience can be added.

San Diego Merit Badge Counselors

As with all merit badge counselors, please ensure you are watchful for Youth Protection. It is possible that a Scuba course has appropriate facilities, etc... for the “general public”, but could be inappropriate and a violation of Youth Protection and other Safe Scouting rules. Do Not Assume.

See the full list below found here: <http://www.sdicbsa.org/Advancement/CounselorLookup.php>

Scuba Diving

No ZIP Code entered. The default ZIP Code of 92103 will be used.

NOTE: Scouts need to CC their parent(s) when contacting a counselor via email.

Name	City	ZIP Code	E-mail	Phone Number	Approx. Distance From 92103
Graham Hufford	San Diego	92191	E-mail		2
Timothy Caulfield	San Diego	92106	E-mail	949.322.1185	5
Rich Hansing	San Diego	92115	E-mail	619.709.4640	6
Van Johnson	San Diego	92119	E-mail	619.994.5155	9
Fred Chambers	San Diego	92126	E-mail	760.522.4901	10
William Stedman	San Diego	92126	E-mail	858.722.52555	10
George Rivas	San Diego	92131	E-mail	858.764.4256	12
Michael Szilard	Santee	92071	E-mail	619.940.4453	12
David Smith	Carlsbad	92009	E-mail	619.876.6343	25
Total Displayed: 9					

San Diego Dive Shops

These shops are all interested in working with Venture Crews. This is not a complete list. The information is directly from the shop listed and is not edited (even misspellings are kept in place). None is recommended over another. You make the choice by asking the right questions based on your desires designed from the discussion above. The information is a couple of years old, so check with the shop for an update.

Here is the questionnaire to be the key to answers:

1. Pre-Open Water
 - 1.1. What do you provide for individuals or groups for Snorkeling, Discover Scuba, and/or Discover Scuba Diving?
 - 1.2. What is the cost of each?
 - 1.3. How would the Crew arrange for this?
 - 1.4. Additional comments:
2. Open Water Certification
 - 2.1. What do you provide for individuals or groups wanting Open Water Certification (format, location, other...)
 - 2.2. What are the costs you charge (instruction, etc...)
 - 2.3. What other costs would the student incur (books, equipment, air, etc...)
 - 2.4. Do you have group discounts, and if so what are the requirements?
 - 2.5. Do you have "off season" special pricing (such as 50% off December and January...), and if so
 - 2.5.1. What are the costs you charge (instruction, etc...)
 - 2.5.2. What other costs would the student incur (books, equipment, air, etc...)
 - 2.6. Are any of your instructors Boy Scout Scuba Merit Badge Counselors approved by San Diego Imperial Council? If so, their names?
 - 2.7. Additional comments
3. Scuba Activities
 - 3.1. Do you have regularly scheduled activities that Crews could participate in (such as Wednesday evenings at La Jolla Cove)
 - 3.2. Do you have activities from time to time that Crews could participate in (such as equipment demos)
 - 3.3. Do you have a dive club appropriate for Crews to participate in? If so, please describe your membership and activities of the club
 - 3.4. Do you have day dive trips appropriate for Open Water divers? Please describe.
 - 3.5. Do you have day dive trips not appropriate for Open Water, but for Advanced Open Water with dive experience? If so, please describe.
4. Advanced Training
 - 4.1. What do you provide for Advanced Open Water? (content, format, cost)
 - 4.2. What do you provide for Rescue Diver? (content, format, cost)
 - 4.3. What Specialties do you normally support? (format, cost)
 - 4.4. Additional comments (I have omitted Divemaster on purpose)
5. Adventure Diving
 - 5.1. Do you have dive trips regularly planned appropriate for an adult led group of teenagers to participate in?

- 5.2. Do you have other activities planned or just great ideas that you could support, not described above, that you would consider “adventure diving” (such as multiple day live-aboards, scuba camps), if so, please describe.
- 5.3. Additional comments

Jesse L Dean, Jr.
PADI Master Instructor
MI 20486

San Diego Scuba Training Center
4101 Sweetwater Road
Bonita, Ca 91902
(619) 850-5752

Our Website www.sandiegoscubacenter.com

email any questions to: jesse@sandiegoscubacenter.com

Join Our Group Today for Free www.groups.yahoo.com/sandiegoscubacenter

1. Pre-Open Water

1.1. What do you provide for individuals or groups for Snorkeling, Discover Scuba, and/or Discover Scuba Diving? We offer a full array of beginning programs including the above and others such as bubble maker, and seal team. as well as being a Scuba Merit Badge Counselor SDIC

1.2. What is the cost of each?

Snorkeling \$65.00 skin diver course

Discover Scuba \$25.00/person creditable toward the Open Water Course

Discover Scuba Diving is \$65.00/person

1.3. How would the Crew arrange for this?

Groups my call text or email for details and to schedule courses

1.4. Additional comments:

We are located on our own private 4 acre training facility in the heart of Bonita and have been here for over 21 years. We have a custom dive pool and two modern classrooms, as well as a full pro shop and repair facility.

2. Open Water Certification

2.1. What do you provide for individuals or groups wanting Open Water Certification (format, location, other...)

Please see our website for course formats at:

<http://sandiegoscubacenter.com/coursedates.html>

2.2. What are the costs you charge (instruction, etc...)

Our Scout program price is currently \$149.00/Scout + book package for 4-6 scouts in a class if less than 4 the price is \$189.95 + book package

2.3. What other costs would the student incur (books, equipment, air, etc...)

The book package is currently \$50.00/ scout

2.4. Do you have group discounts, and if so what are the requirements?

The prices above are for scouts and their leaders(well below the public prices

2.5. Do you have "off season" special pricing (such as 50% off December and January...), and if so

2.5.1. What are the costs you charge (instruction, etc...)

2.5.2. What other costs would the student incur (books, equipment, air, etc...)

2.6. Are any of your instructors Boy Scout Scuba Merit Badge Counselors approved by San Diego Imperial Council? If so, their names?

Jesse Dean PADI Master Instructor 26 Years and Scuba Merit Badge Counselor SDIC

2.7. Additional comments

All of our Instructors are working on getting Scuba Merit Badge Counselor ratings

3. Scuba Activities

3.1. Do you have regularly scheduled activities that Crews could participate in (such as Wednesday evenings at La Jolla Cove)

We offer from our pirates dive club, local trips, bbq's and dive outings from san diego to catalina island

3.2. Do you have activities from time to time that Crews could participate in (such as equipment demos)

We have gear demos weekly and others upon requests.

3.3. Do you have a dive club appropriate for Crews to participate in? If so, please describe your membership and activities of the club

We have a Pirate's Cub Club for scouts and younger divers:

The club promotes diver safety and activities for all.

3.4. Do you have day dive trips appropriate for Open Water divers? Please describe.

We offer day trips to Catalina, ensenda, Laguna, La Jolla and others

3.5. Do you have day dive trips not appropriate for Open Water, but for Advanced Open Water with dive experience? If so, please describe.

We offer throughout the month Deep Wreck Diving trips from the P-38 to the USS Hogan and others.

4. Advanced Training

4.1. What do you provide for Advanced Open Water? (content, format, cost)

4.2. What do you provide for Rescue Diver? (content, format, cost)

We do offer the PADI Rescue Diver, EFR, and DAN O2 programs

4.3. What Specialties do you normally support? (format, cost)

We offer most PADI Specialties, please see our website for details

4.4. Additional comments (I have omitted Divemaster on purpose)

We Offer the full PADI Advanced programs from Adventure through the Divemaster program with internships available. Please see our website for pricing and course format details.

5. Adventure Diving

5.1. Do you have dive trips regularly planned appropriate for an adult led group of teenagers to participate in?

As described above and on our website, we offer day trips as well as multi day trips, along with dive planning workshops for older scouts and their leaders regularly

5.2. Do you have other activities planned or just great ideas that you could support, not described above, that you would consider "adventure diving" (such as multiple day live-aboards, scuba camps), if so, please describe.

We have offer scuba camps at the beaches of san diego, and at our facility and beyond for single day and multi day dive workshops and excursions. Please call for details

5.3. Additional comments

Please call if you have additional questions, or to schedule a tour of the facility. Thank you and we look forward to meeting you.

Jesse L Dean, Jr.
PADI Master Instructor
MI 20486

House of Scuba
5141 Santa Fe St. Ste A
San Diego, California 92109
Phone: 858.581.2800

Here are the following answers to your questions:

1.1. Snorkeling experience is supplied with all gear needed, including super stretch wetsuits, and scheduled according to participants availability. Discover Scuba in the pool includes all gear as well - we run classes about twice a month and can offer other classes based on enrollment. Discover Scuba in the ocean does not include rental gear, but it is available for rent - scheduled around participants availability.

1.2. Snorkel experience is \$75 per person. DSD in pool is \$29.95. DS in the ocean is \$150 per person - max 2 students per class.

1.3. Call to schedule 858.581.2800 or email to sales@houseofscuba.com

1.4. We can make special arrangements and special pricing for larger groups of snorkeling experience and discover scuba in the pool. If larger groups are arranged, please call us to confirm #'s and desired time and we'll confirm pricing and availability.

2.1 We have at least 2 open water express classes a month and more are added on an as needed basis. The express coarse usually runs on Thurs from 5-9ish (classroom), Fri 5-9:30ish (pool at the Wave House in Mission Bay), Sat 7ish-12ish 2 check out dives at the shores, Sun is the same as Sat.

2.2. OW coarse is \$299 and includes all books and materials, all pool time, certification card, and rental of primary dive gear for the duration of the class.

2.3. Mask, Snorkel, Booties, and Fins are the only items not included in the OW Class. We highly recommend that students buy their own gear, but we do have items available for rent if they do not want to purchase. We also have 150% price protection, guaranteeing the best pricing (including online companies).

2.4. We do not offer group discounts, but with groups of 4 to 6 we can arrange a more personalized schedule to accommodate the students availability.

2.5. We do not have off season discounted pricing. Because of our great customer service and premier instructors, we run classes year round.

2.6. none currently

2.7. We'd be extremely excited to introduce the world beneath the oceans surface to the Council. We realize that scuba instruction is an extremely important element in ensuring that a student gets the most out of their class. We are confident that we have some of the best instructors that will ensure their students get all the instruction a guidance they need to become a safe and well rounded PADI Open Water Scuba Diver.

3.1. Here are 4 options for continuing to dive after an OW certification. 1) We are in the process of creating a dive club that will have regularly scheduled local dives. 2) We are also trying to run a trip through our shop once a month. Over the last two months we've made two trips; one was a 2 dive boat trip to the Oil Rigs off of Long Beach and the 2nd was a 3 dive boat trip to Catalina. We are in the process of putting together our next trip which will probably be to the Coronado's. 3) We offer continuing education on a regular basis as well. Our top three continuing education certifications are Advanced, Rescue, and Nitrox. 4) About 2-3 times a year we have a BBQ (we supply water, soda, burgers, chips, etc for free) at La Jolla shores and offer a specialty certification for \$25. Our most recent was a Peak Buoyancy class. The time before that was a beach clean up dive and a project aware certification (participants also received a free t-shirt, collection bag, and lunch).

3.2. About 2-3 times a year we have a BBQ (we supply water, soda, burgers, chips, etc for free) at La Jolla shores and offer a specialty certification for \$25. Our most recent was a Peak Buoyancy class. The time before that was a beach clean up dive and a project aware certification (participants also received a free t-shirt, collection bag, and lunch). If a participant doesn't want to get the specialty certification, they can participate in these events for free (the \$25 is for the specialty certification card).

3.3. We are in the process of setting up our club and it should be fully running by early 2011. We'll be running fun dives a few times a month at no charge. This is a club for fun dives and is currently planned to have no yearly fees or dues.

3.4. Yes, we have day dive trips available. In addition to the above options we are working on getting our boat set up and insured for local trips. We have an Achilles inflatable, ideal for 4 divers.

3.5. Yes, we have day dive trips available for advanced or above divers. Examples of this are our trip to the oil rigs, trips to the local wrecks, and wreck penetration dives for divers with appropriate certification.

4.1. Our AOW is usually done over one weekend, but other arrangements can be made. The class includes 5 dives and certification card. The class does not include books which are currently priced at \$29.95. The class does not include rental gear, but in addition to having some of the best rental rates in San Diego, we also offer 25% off rental rates for students during their AOW class. Pricing is based off of shore dives, but if the class agrees, boat dives can be scheduled (pricing varies upon dive location).

4.2. Our Rescue class is usually completed over two weekends. The cost is \$175.00 and includes certification card and pool time. Rental gear is not included, but students get 25% off rental gear while in the class. Books and CPR mask are not included, currently priced at \$29.95 book, \$12.95 CPR mask, and DVD at \$24.95.

4.3. We teach an array of specialties. Some of our most popular ones are: Nitrox, Wreck Diver, Deep Diver, Camera, Boat, Search and Recovery, Peak Buoyancy, Project Aware, Night Diver, Equipment, etc. The price varies per class. Please email or call for pricing.

4.4. We are a full service dive shop. We pride ourselves on ensuring our customers get the best value for their investment in this amazing sport. We are here to ensure you have a great experience!

5.1. Yes, we have adult led trips regularly - both our monthly trips and more adventurous trips like Cozumel, the Philippines, the Red Sea, etc. Email or call for details.

5.2. We have open minds and a great staff ready to help. Our staff combined has over a 100 years of diving experience. We are eager to help share the wonders of this sport with divers of all ages and levels.

5.3. We are confident we are the best choice for diving in San Diego. Customers aren't just a # to us - you are a fellow diver. Come dive with us!

I hope I was able to answer all of the questions fully. If you have any further questions, please let me know. If you want me to attach our answers to the question template, please let me know.

Thank you,

Mike

HouseofScuba.com

858.581.2800

[OEXCALIFORNIA](#) | [LA JOLLA](#) | [MISSION BAY](#) | [SUNSET BEACH](#)

858-454-6195 Contact: mike@oexcalifornia.com

2243 Avenida De La Playa, La Jolla, CA 92037

1. Pre-Open Water

1.1. What do you provide for individuals or groups for Snorkeling, Discover Scuba, and/or Discover Scuba Diving?

We offer snorkeling for both groups and individuals. Either by way of Kayak, access through La Jolla Cove, or down the street at the Marine Room. Our shop is located a stones throw from the La Jolla Marine Reserve, and offers excellent snorkeling.

We are starting a Discover Scuba program that will be out of La Jolla Cove. Price has not been set, and is negotiable.

1.2. What is the cost of each?

Snorkeling off a Kayak is normally \$50/person. Snorkeling at the cove and marine room is \$35-40pp.

We do offer group rates for organizations such as boy scouts. Depending on the group size, we could do a kayak snorkel combo for as low as \$25-\$30/pp.

1.3. How would the Crew arrange for this?

Call our shop @ (858) 454-6195, or email me @ chrish@oexcalifornia.com

1.4. Additional comments:

2. Open Water Certification

2.1. What do you provide for individuals or groups wanting Open Water Certification (format, location, other...)

Classes do not run on a set schedule. We offer schedules around students requirements. Course work is completed at the shop or any location acceptable to the students(House, coffee shop, office). Pool work is done at The Wave House in Mission Beach. Open Water Dives are done here at La Jolla Shores.

2.2. What are the costs you charge (instruction, etc...)

\$450 for instruction, book, all equipment rental, PIC

2.3. What other costs would the student incur (books, equipment, air, etc...)

No additional costs. Discounted gear will be available for purchase if desired

2.4. Do you have group discounts, and if so what are the requirements?

The first student is full price, the 2nd is \$400, each additional student is \$350

2.5. Do you have "off season" special pricing (such as 50% off December and January...), and if so

No

2.5.1. What are the costs you charge (instruction, etc...)

N/A

2.5.2. What other costs would the student incur (books, equipment, air, etc...)

N/A

2.6. Are any of your instructors Boy Scout Scuba Merit Badge Counselors approved by San Diego Imperial Council? If so, their names?

No, but we have worked well with the Boy Scouts previously

2.7. Additional comments

We are very interested in supporting the Boy Scouts. If larger group sizes are interested in certifications, we could offer our class for \$325/pp

3. Scuba Activities

3.1. Do you have regularly scheduled activities that Crews could participate in (such as Wednesday evenings at La Jolla Cove)

We do cove dives daily during the summer months.

3.2. Do you have activities from time to time that Crews could participate in (such as equipment demos)

We have special events scheduled during the summer. We work with summer camps, and schedule activities that center around beach activities.

3.3. Do you have a dive club appropriate for Crews to participate in? If so, please describe your membership and activities of the club

No we don't

3.4. Do you have day dive trips appropriate for Open Water divers? Please describe.

We do guided dives to both La Jolla Shores and Cove.

3.5. Do you have day dive trips not appropriate for Open Water, but for Advanced Open Water with dive experience? If so, please describe.

Boat trips can be arranged. They leave out of Mission Bay, and travel to the local wrecks, Point Loma Kelp, and Los Coronados Islands.

4. Advanced Training

4.1. What do you provide for Advanced Open Water? (content, format, cost)

All our courses are similar to our OW. The price is all inclusive, and does not require additional fees for books, pic, or gear rental. It cost \$375. The schedule depends on the group and desired elective dives.

4.2. What do you provide for Rescue Diver? (content, format, cost)

Pool work is done at the Wave House in Mission Beach. EFR(Emergency First Response) is also offered as part of this class, and can be combined with the pool session. Open water dives are done according to the students schedule. They can be completed in as little as 2 days.

4.3. What Specialties do you normally support? (format, cost)

We do underwater photography at both the Shores and Cove. The price is \$250 and does not include camera. We have a master Scuba instructor that has numerous other specialties. Price varies from course to course.

4.4. Additional comments (I have omitted Divemaster on purpose)

As I have mentioned our courses are scheduled around specific student's needs. We specialize in accommodating people's schedules.

5. Adventure Diving

5.1. Do you have dive trips regularly planned appropriate for an adult led group of teenagers to participate in?

Nothing regularly scheduled.

5.2. Do you have other activities planned or just great ideas that you could support, not described above, that you would consider "adventure diving" (such as multiple day live-aboards, scuba camps), if so, please describe.

We have organized group trips to Catalina for diving and kayaking. They are not regular, but can be arranged

5.3. Additional comments

Just wanted to reiterate we are very interested in working with Scout groups. We have had much success bringing groups out for kayaking. We would look forward to working with the Boy Scouts in SCUBA.

Feel free to contact me if you need any additional information. Either through this email, or my Cell (858) 525-2001.

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Thank you,

Chris Hageman
Managing Partner
OEX Dive and Kayak La Jolla
(858) 454-6195, www.oexcalifornia.com/lajolla

Please note our new address;
2243 Avenida De La Playa, La Jolla, CA 92037

Michael Timm

Dive California

4004 Sports Arena Blvd.

San Diego, CA 92110

Phone (619) 222-0060 - Fax (619) 222-0061

<http://www.divecalifornia.com/>

1. Pre-Open Water
 - a. What do you provide for individuals or groups for Snorkeling, Discover Scuba, and/or Discover Scuba Diving? **We do offer Discover Scuba on special request for groups but no Discover Scuba Diving in San Diego due to the difficult diving conditions. We believe that short DSD pool introduction is not sufficient to conduct the Discover Scuba dives safely in San Diego open waters.**
 - b. What is the cost of each? **We do charge \$20.00 per person for BSA and Family.**
 - c. How would the Crew arrange for this? **Call the shop at 619-222-0060 and ask for Penny or Michael**
 - d. Additional comments: **The Discover Scuba's will be conducted with groups of maximum 6 students at the time in our on-site heated 88 degree training pool. We are able to run up to 5 groups in one day. As we do annually with the "Powder Horn" and other BSA HQ events in San Diego.**
2. Open Water Certification
 - a. What do you provide for individuals or groups wanting Open Water Certification (format, location, other...) **We do offer 2 week formats:**

Format 1: week 1, Monday night, Thursday night, Saturday day time, week 2, Monday night, Thursday night, Saturday and Sunday day time.

Format 2: week 1 & 2, Saturday and Sunday day time. (weekend only)

- b. What are the costs you charge (instruction, etc...) **\$299.00 for tuition incl. certification dives in the ocean, home study package (Manual and DVD), rental equipment (Tanks, Air, BCD, Regulator setup with computer, wetsuit and weights) and PIC (Certification Card)**
 - c. What other costs would the student incur (books, equipment, air, etc...) **Personal Snorkel package (Mask, Snorkel, Boots, Fins, Gloves, Personal Mouthpiece and Logbook)**
 - d. Do you have group discounts, and if so what are the requirements? **We do not offer any group discounts for any classes, this tuition is already our bottom price. We do although offer a \$25.00 discount per person for BSA Open Water Classes with a minimum of 4 students in the class and that the students purchase their required gear package with Dive California, a 5% discount will be applied to the purchase and we do have competitive pricing and price match with any dive shop within San Diego for non-sale items.**
 - e. Do you have "off season" special pricing (such as 50% off December and January...), and if so
 - i. What are the costs you charge (instruction, etc...) **No, same as above, in our off season we are able to give our students even more time and attention. We do offer a high end service to our customers, above and beyond in comparison to other training facilities.**
 - ii. What other costs would the student incur (books, equipment, air, etc...) **same as above**
 - f. Are any of your instructors Boy Scout Scuba Merit Badge Counselors approved by San Diego Imperial Council? If so, their names? **Michael Timm**
 - g. Additional comments **NONE**
3. Scuba Activities
- a. Do you have regularly scheduled activities that Crews could participate in (such as Wednesday evenings at La Jolla Cove) **We are the sponsor for the Order of the Arrow-Tiwahe Scuba Lodge, which does meet every 1st Wednesday of every month at the dive shop for education and pool skills. (Contact Guy Hadley- Adult Leader) for detailed information. In addition we offer all our dive club members (TID-Total Immersion Divers) to participate in our weekly informal Wednesday night dive. Additional dives, trips, gear demos and workshops are scheduled regularly on the weekends and members will be emailed with date, time and location.**

- b. Do you have activities from time to time that Crews could participate in (such as equipment demos) **Beach and underwater cleanups, diverse workshops, Gear demos, Boat-trips to the Channel Islands.**
 - c. Do you have a dive club appropriate for Crews to participate in? If so, **please** describe your membership and activities of the club.
1. **Tiwahe Scuba Lodge (please contact Guy Hadley at ghadley@san.rr.com)**
 2. **TID Dive Club (please see attachment for more detailed information)**
 - d. Do you have day dive trips appropriate for Open Water divers? Please describe. **Yes, our organized boat trips to Catalina, Kelp-beds, Coronado Islands.**
 - e. Do you have day dive trips not appropriate for Open Water, but for Advanced Open Water with dive experience? If so, please describe. **Oil-Riggs-Long Beach, advanced Wreck trips at the Yukon and San Clemente Wrecks.**
 4. **Advanced Training**
 - a. What do you provide for Advanced Open Water? (content, format, cost)

1. We do offer a PADI AOW course that will be conducted over the weekend (Saturday and Sunday) day time. Cost of the course is \$175.00 plus the required books and equipment

2. We also offer the more in depth SSI Advanced Diver Certification. This is actually the Industries highest combination of diving knowledge and experience to earn this certification, the diver must complete 4 specialty courses and have done a total of 24 dives.

- b. What do you provide for Rescue Diver? (Content, format, cost) **2-3 week nights for Classroom and Pool, Open Water on Saturdays at the La Jolla Shores. \$175.00, Manual and DVD has to be purchased separate.**
- c. What Specialties do you normally support? (format, cost) **We do teach regularly specialties as: Boat, Deep, Wreck, Search & Recovery, Photography, Nitrox, Dry-Suit (own Dry-suit required) We also offer Technical diving specialty courses all the way through Advanced Trimix and CCR (Closed Circuit Rebreathers). Depending on the Specialty, we will usually conduct classes on the weekends, some classroom session may be set during a week night. Course prices range from \$100 for 2 dive specialties to \$195 for specialties with up to 4 dives, necessary study materials, certification fee, required equipment. Boat tickets will be additional, if the students decide to add boat dives.**

- d. Additional comments (I have omitted Divemaster on purpose) **The cost for the Divemaster classes starts at \$595 without the required study materials. The scheduling will depend on the student choosing an internship format or more like a resort format. This will be usually discussed more in detail when meeting in person and evaluating the students time flexibility and goals as a Divemaster.**
5. Adventure Diving
- a. Do you have dive trips regularly planned appropriate for an adult led group of teenagers to participate in? **Cozumel scuba and whale shark trip annually in July 14th to 21st, Channel Islands (Catalina, St. Barbara, St. Clemente, Anacapa, St. Nicholas) 2- day boat trip twice a year. We are also able to create a special trip for troops or venture crews, as we did last year with Venture Crew 109 Poway. 2-day boat trip to Catalina. Contact Adult leader Kevin (Horse) Gellenbeck for any information on his trip if you wish.**
 - b. Do you have other activities planned or just great ideas that you could support, not described above, that you would consider “adventure diving” (such as multiple day live-aboards, scuba camps), if so, please describe. **Same as mentioned above trips.**
 - c. Additional comments **Dive California is an Aquatic Training Facility, offering classes in Scuba Diving with SSI as our main stream Training Agency, PADI & SDI only on special request, TDI, ANDI and IANTD for Technical Diving. We also do offer Swim Classes, Adaptive Scuba for anyone with any kind of physical disability and Free-Diving Courses.**