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### **Taking your first important step to becoming an underwater adventurer**

Thank you for contacting us. This flyer contains information to help you sign up for classes and help inform you about Aqua Ventures, our certification agency (SDI) and our beginner group or private scuba classes. The attachments include a course application, course schedules, a medical history questionnaire and guidelines and if needed a physician's evaluation form. Please spend some time reading through everything carefully. This information will help you choose the best staff and style of training to introduce you to scuba diving. Our instructors have many years of experience teaching. We are not the quickest nor the cheapest scuba class around but we are thorough and very comprehensive. There is a big difference between "Taking a class" and "Becoming a diver." SCUBA diving is not a sport that you can learn in front of a computer or in a couple of hours in the pool. You are going underwater to do something similar to what an astronaut encounters on a space walk. You need time to absorb the knowledge, learn how to apply it, and feel comfortable underwater. This only happens with an experienced instructor and with adequate in water practice time. You are more than welcome to call us with any questions or concerns you may have about our classes or learning to dive.

Cheers,

Michael Eversmier

SDI Instructor / Platinum Pro 5000 Diver / Platinum Pro 5000 Instructor / Underwater Photographer

### **Ready to get started...**

**Step 1** - Complete the attached course application and the medical history questionnaire. If all of your answers are "**NO**" on your medical questionnaire then you are good to go. These forms can be emailed back or mailed to the address on the application. A deposit or full payment can be made by cash, check or credit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. However, if there is a "**YES**" answer on your medical history questionnaire, then a physician's evaluation form may be required. This form will need to be turned in before we start any in water training with you. Both the medical history questionnaire and medical guidelines should be presented to your physician and signed to clear you to start scuba diving.

**Step 2** - Set up your personal account with SDI. This account will allow you quick access to your eLearning classes, certification cards and many more features. Start by going to SDI's Register page and completing the 3 steps: <https://portal.tdisdi.com/register?>

**Step 3** - Login and view your account to verify your information is correct. Then click on the "Profile" tab at top of the page. You can then upload a black & white or color photo of yourself. A top of head to top of shoulders image against a white background works best. This is the photo that will be printed on your credentials and is used for identification purposes. It will be removed and replaced with the agency logo if the following photo requirements are not met: Must show a clear view of your face. No mask, hats, sunglasses, etc. No cartoons, logos, group photos, etc.

**Step 4** - When we have received your application and course deposit, we will issue you a SDI eLearning activation code so you can start viewing your eLearning course materials. There are a few ways to use this code but the easiest way is to log into your SDI account and then click the "eLearning" tab at the very top left of your page. Scroll down to the three blue boxes and enter your code into the "Enter Code" box. *The code needs to be entered exactly so copying and pasting your code works best.* Redeem code, agree to terms, submit code signup, then Start Course. Watch this video to walk you through code activation if you need help - [How to Signup with an eLearning code](#)

**Step 5** - Verify a start date and schedule for either a group or private classes with us. Pay off your balance 14 days before your class starts. Hand in your physician's evaluation/release form if it was required before you start in the pool. Complete your eLearning materials before our classroom review session.

**Step 6** - Before the water sessions begin, we will verify the pool's location with you, email you a copy of the training liability release form and training record to review. We will have copies for you to complete and sign when we meet at the first pool session. Bring a swimsuit and towel to the pool for your adventure to begin.

**Aqua Ventures** opened for business in 1990. It is operated by scuba instructor and underwater photographer, Michael Eversmier, and his wife and diving companion, Maureen Eversmier. Aqua Ventures offers private and group scuba instruction from beginner to dive leader, dive guide services, fun local activities and exciting trips to tropical destinations by our experienced staff. Aqua Ventures is well known in the area for providing friendly, personalized service to their students and travelers. Our instructors, assistant instructors and dive guides are patient, excellent teachers and divers with many years of teaching and diving experience. They are available to answer questions and advise you of the proper equipment purchases for your diving needs. Our training equipment is well maintained and regularly updated. We don't want you to be just another person in a diving class with us, we want you to be a comfortable diver and invite you to join us on our underwater adventures.

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/AquaVenturesInc>

Facebook photo and video album: [https://www.facebook.com/AquaVenturesInc/photos\\_stream?tab=photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/AquaVenturesInc/photos_stream?tab=photos_albums)

Website: See photos of local sites and past travel dive destinations [MichaelEversmier.com](http://www.MichaelEversmier.com)

Website <http://www.aquaventuresonline.com>

Social Media Ratings for Aqua Ventures, LLC: Google, 4.9 stars, 13 reviews / Facebook, 5 out of 5 Based on the opinion of 32 people.

**SDI, Scuba Diving International** began in 1998 as a recreational diving branch of TDI, Technical Diving International, and ERDI, Emergency Response Diving International to form one of the largest diving certification agencies in the World – International Training. SDI certifications are recognized worldwide and will be accepted by dive centers, charter operators, and dive destinations anywhere your adventures may take you. SDI courses are taught by thousands of SDI facilities and instructors in 10 different languages, through 26 international offices. SDI is also a member of the [World Recreational Scuba Training Council \(WRSTC\)](#) through its regional RSTCs in Europe, Canada and the US and SDI programs are approved by the International Organization Standardization (ISO). [Click here to learn more about SDI](#)

### **What will your learning experience be like?**

Click here - [Get Smart, Get Wet, Go Dive!](#) Our private or group beginner scuba course referred to as Open Water Diver, is divided into 2 parts. Part 1: eLearning, Class & Pool and Part 2: Open Water Training Dives.

**eLearning:** Start your SDI Open Water Scuba Diver course and master all the important academic information online. You can complete this phase through self-study, at your own pace, in the convenience of your home or office. All eLearning courses work on mobile and tablet devices too. You will test your knowledge with interactive questions, add notes for discussion with our instructor and track your progress every time you login.

**Class Discussion:** In class, eLearning subjects are reviewed, your questions are answered, pool skills are discussed and additional information not covered in the online part is presented. Hands on experiences are built into the class time to enhance the learning experience like learning hand signals, training with dive computers and learning how to use a compass for basic navigation.

**Pool Training:** The next step will be to complete your in-water skill-development training. This takes place in a swimming pool under the supervision of an SDI Instructor. An easy and natural step by step progression of skills are completed to help you adapt to the underwater world with lots of practice time to help you achieve a high level of comfort and control. If you have a pool at your house, private classes can be arranged to teach you on your own schedule. Part 1 is usually completed in 1 to 2 weeks depending upon length and frequency of each session.

**Open Water Training Dives:** The final step for certification is to complete the required minimum of 4 open-water training dives under the supervision of an SDI Instructor. Here you will apply what you have learned during your academic and skill-development sessions, while learning practical lessons that can only be gained through real-world experience in open water. These dives can be completed with your Aqua Ventures instructor at a local diving site or with another referral instructor at a travel destination of your choice. Training dives are usually completed in 2 consecutive days and should be completed within 6 months of completion of Part 1 of your training. Upon completion of Part 2 of the course, you will receive your Open Water Diver certification card which will allow you to begin your diving adventures and activities and participate in our trips and specialty classes.

**Prerequisites and Age Limits:** All divers should be able to swim 200 yards (style and speed are not important) and be in good physical condition. The age limit to start scuba diving is 10 years old and many people continue diving into their 70s and 80s if they are in good health. Ages 10 through 14 will receive a Junior Open Water Diver certification. Certified divers age 10 to 11 can do 2 dives per day to a depth of 40' with a parent or instructor. Certified divers age 12 through 14 can dive to a depth of 60' with an adult diver. Once a diver reaches age 15, they can apply for an Open Water Diver card. If it has been more than one year since they were certified as a Jr. Open Water Diver, a skills review session may be needed to upgrade.

**What Equipment will you need to start?** A swimsuit and towel are all that is required to get started learning with us in the pool. This will give you an opportunity to try out different masks and scuba equipment before you make any purchases. We do encourage students to start owning their own equipment once they start diving in the open water for a few reasons. First, some dive sites may not rent equipment of the quality you can rely on to safely and comfortably scuba dive. Secondly, you will perform better and enjoy the experience more in your own equipment that is maintained and properly fitted to you.

**Suggested Equipment:** The pool and tropical water is usually a comfortable 80° to 85° but can range from 72° to 90°. If you get cold easily, a 3mm wetsuit can help make your dives more enjoyable. We have a limited supply of 3mm full wetsuits available for pool sessions: \$5.00/day or \$15.00 for the entire course.

**Some equipment is needed if completing your Open Water Training Dives with us locally:** You will need your own mask, snorkel, open-heel scuba fins, 5mm or 6.5mm high top diving boots and possible 3mm or 5mm gloves depending on current water temperatures. The remaining scuba equipment you used during pool training will be included along with a 7mm wetsuit and hood.

----- **Part 1, Group Class Tuition** -----

**Group Open Water Diver course: \$475 / person**

Our group class size is small. Classes average 5 to 8 students with a 4:1 student to instructor ratio so we can provide for everyone's individual needs. Pool sessions for group classes usually take place in a rented indoor pool at Notre Dame Prep School in Towson. A group scuba class includes: a S.D.I. online eLearning Kit, SDI diver logbook, 3 to 4 hours of class with your instructor to review and answer questions, 8 to 9 hours of training in the pool, use of our quality rental snorkeling and scuba equipment during your pool training. (Includes: mask, snorkel, training fins, regulator with alternate air source, pressure gauge, buoyancy control device, scuba tank, soft weights, weight belt, dive computer). After completion of Part 1 of the Open Water Diver course, you can complete your required dives for certification with us locally or as a Referral Diver. If completing your certification as a Referral Diver at a travel destination, you will receive a Universal Referral Letter and assistance setting up your Open Water dives at your destination.

----- **Part 1, Private Class Tuition** -----

**Private Open Water Diver course: \$725/1 person, \$625/person for 2 people, \$575/person for 3-4 people**  
Private Open Water Diver courses for your family or friends at your own pool are also available. Our staff will come to your pool and work out a training schedule to fit your needs. Private scuba class include: a S.D.I. online eLearning Kit, SDI diver logbook, 3 to 4 hours of class with your instructor to review and answer questions, 8 to 9 hours of training in the pool, use of our quality rental snorkeling and scuba equipment during your pool training. (includes: mask, snorkel, training fins, regulator with alternate air source, pressure gauge, buoyancy control device, scuba tank, soft weights, weight belt, dive computer) After completion of Part 1 of the Open Water Diver course, you can complete your required dives for certification with us locally or as a Referral Diver. If completing your certification as a Referral Diver at a travel destination, you will receive a Universal Referral Letter and assistance setting up your Open Water dives at your destination.

----- **Part 2, Local Open Water Training Dives Tuition** -----

**Open Water Training Dives with Aqua Ventures:**

**\$175/person** group of 5-8 divers, **\$200/person** for 3-4 divers, **\$250/person** for 1-2 divers

We offer the option of completing your Open Water training dives locally with an Aqua Ventures' instructor. The dives are offered from May to October while local diving conditions are the most comfortable at one of the local diving site. Your training will include: 4 to possibly 6 open water dives and two days use of rental scuba equipment (includes: regulator with alternate air source, pressure gauge, dive computer, buoyancy control device, scuba tank, soft weights, wetsuit and hood). Mask, open-heel scuba fins, snorkel, boots and

gloves are not provided for open water dives. These items are available locally or online and we can provide recommendations on where and what equipment may best suit your diving needs. Once certified, you will also receive a SDI plastic certification card and a SDI digital certification card.

### **Companion Scuba Course or Refresher /Inactive Diver Course**

If you have a friend or family member taking our Open Water Diver course and you are already a certified diver but would like to attend the class and review your knowledge and skills in the water with them, ask us about our Companion Scuba course or a separate and shorter Refresher /Inactive Diver Course.

**Companion Scuba course:** You can accompany your friend or family member during their time in the class and pool. The Companion Scuba class includes the online SDI eLearning Refresher /Inactive Diver materials plus use of tanks, weights and belt.

**\$270** if you have your own scuba equipment.

**\$310** also includes mask, fins, snorkel, regulator, alternate air source, SPG, computer, BCD.

In addition to the time refreshing with your friend or family member in the class and pool, you can also accompany and participate with them on their open water training dives.

**\$385** if you have your own scuba equipment, includes 4 open water dives and a Refresher Diver C-Card.

**\$445** includes mask, fins, snorkel, regulator, alternate air source, SPG, computer, BCD, 4 open water dives, and a Refresher Diver C-Card.

**Refresher /Inactive Diver Course \$120 or \$140** with a plastic and digital C-card.

Your session will include a 3 hour water skills refresher with one of our instructors during one of your friend or family member's pool sessions. The Refresher class includes the online SDI eLearning Refresher materials and use of scuba tank, soft weights. Our staff will sign off in your logbook verifying your completion. If additional equipment is needed the following pieces can be included for \$5 each: regulator, alternate air source and SPG / BCD / 3mm wetsuit / mask, fins & snorkel.

### ----- **What are the others cost's you should be aware of?** -----

#### **Additional fees when applicable:**

1. If you will be completing your Open Water Training Dives locally with us, there is an entry fee into the local dive sites which vary from \$45.00 to \$55.00 / day. Decision on dive destinations will be made based off of current water and weather conditions and student needs. Local dive sites include: Willow Springs, Lake Allure, Dutch Springs, Juturna Springs, Lake Phoenix and Guppy Gulch. Dive sites range in drive time from 1.25 hours to 4.5 hour drive from Baltimore so an overnight hotel or camping stay may be needed.
2. If you will be completing your Open Water Training Dives locally with us, you will need to purchase a few additional air fills for your dives. Fills average \$10/tank fill with air and depending on the number of dives and your air consumption, you may need 1 or 2 refills.
3. Make up sessions with your instructor for missed or additional pool instruction: \$40.00/hr/person + pool rental
4. Pool rental for private or missed group sessions - \$70.00 / hour.

### ----- **Once you're a certified diver, then what?** -----

**We offer exciting trips and fun activities year-round for all levels of divers** to keep you having fun. Everyone is welcome to attend our trips which vary from one day to two weeks and range from local adventures to exotic dive travel.

**We also offer a large variety of specialty courses** after completing your open water course to help you reach the level of training you desire. Courses include: Advanced Adventure Diver, Perfect Buoyancy, Digital Underwater Photography, Night & Limited Visibility Diver, Underwater Navigation, Wreck Diver, Deep & Computer Diver, Nitrox Computer Diver, Boat & Drift Diver, Solo Diver, Rescue Diver and Dive Master.

***We look forward to exploring our underwater world with you.***

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