



# The Scoutmasters Guide *to the* Scuba Diving Merit Badge



In 2010, the Boy Scouts of America in tandem with PADI, launched the Scuba Diving merit badge. Since then, the popularity of scuba diving is growing exponentially among the scouts. Much like scouting, the overall philosophy of scuba encourages the quest for adventure. It is a life changing experience that enables young men and women to embrace challenges in a whole new way.

PADI Dive Centers and Resorts are ready to help Scouts experience the adventure of learning to breathe under water. This pamphlet will help provide you with a detailed roadmap on how to work with a PADI Dive Center or Resort to easily incorporate dive training into your weekly troop or crew meeting.

Incorporating dive training and the Scuba Diving merit badge into your weekly troop or crew meeting schedule is easy. The PADI Open Water Diver course offers maximum flexibility to accommodate various time demands and various learning styles.



## **DIVE TRAINING IS BROKEN DOWN INTO THREE SECTIONS**

**1** Knowledge Development

**2** Pool Training

*(Can also be conducted in a body of water that offers swimming pool like conditions)*

**3** Open Water Dives

There are five pool dives that correspond to five knowledge development sections. The four open water training dives (that are conducted over at least two days) tie together the information and skills learned in pool and knowledge development.

## KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

- » Establishes a foundation of principles, procedures and general information divers need.
- » Consists of five sections, each of which is normally completed through independent study with the PADI Open Water Diver Online or the PADI *Open Water Diver Manual and Video*.
- » Student divers answer exercise questions within the reading and complete a Knowledge Review for each section. Student divers demonstrate mastery by completing the appropriate PADI Quiz and Final Exam.



## CONFINED WATER

Pool training serves two purposes.

- 1 Develops basic dive skills in a relatively low stress environment.
- 2 Reinforces and supplements knowledge development by having student divers practice and apply what they learn during knowledge development.

## OPEN WATER DIVES

Open water dives give the student the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned in the pool and classroom by having student divers apply both in open water. By practicing skills mastered in confined water, student divers continue to learn as they demonstrate their skills in open water.





## SAMPLE SCUBA SCHEDULE

Incorporating PADI Open Water Diver course training and Scuba Diving merit badge requirements into your weekly troop or crew meeting calendar is simple. Here's a sample schedule:

**Session 1** Orientation - complete paperwork, review course schedule and requirements, assign independent study and complete the first confined water session

**Session 2** Review knowledge review for Chapter One, complete quiz for Chapter One and complete confined water session two.

**Session 3** Review knowledge review for Chapter Two, complete quiz for Chapter Two and complete confined water session three.

**Session 4** Review Knowledge Review for Chapter Three, complete quiz for Chapter Three and complete confined water session four.

**Session 5** Review Knowledge Review for Chapter Four, complete quiz for Chapter Four and complete water skills for confined water session five.

**Session 6** Review Knowledge Review for Chapter five, complete final exam, review Scuba Diving Merit Badge requirements one through three and five through six

**Weekend Outing:** Schedule open water dives over two days during your monthly troop or crew outing.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How long does it take to earn the Scuba Diving merit badge?**

You can complete your confined and open water dives in as few as three or four days if you complete knowledge development via independent study (such as PADI eLearning).

### **How much does it cost to earn your Scuba Diving merit badge?**

Each dive center is independently owned and operated so course pricing varies.. Many dive centers offer special programs for Boy Scouts, so be sure to identify yourself as a scout leader.

### **Is scuba diving safe?**

Statistically, scuba diving is a very safe sport, with very few incidents compared to the number of dives performed annually. In addition, scuba diving is nonimpact and noncompetitive.

### **How often do I need to renew my certification?**

Although refresher training is recommended after periods of inactivity, dive certifications are good for life.

### **Can my Scouts earn this merit badge if we don't live close to the ocean?**

From a swimming pool to the ocean and all points in between, you can dive practically anywhere there's water - including quarries, lakes, rivers and springs.

### **How can I find someone to offer dive training?**

Visit the Dive Shop Locator at [padi.com](http://padi.com) and enter the city you wish to search.

### **How do I find a merit badge counselor for the Scuba Diving merit badge?**

First, contact your local Council Merit Badge coordinator. Second, contact your local PADI Dive Center or Resort to see if they have Scuba Diving Merit Badge counselors on staff.

### **Do we need to purchase any equipment to learn to dive?**

Most dive centers require each student diver to have personal snorkeling gear that includes mask, snorkel and fins. Some stores may also require the student to have his own hood, dive booties and gloves, depending upon location and water temperature. Most dive centers will have all other necessary gear available for rental.



### **Are there any medical restrictions for learning to dive?**

All student divers complete a brief medical statement that asks about certain conditions that could be problematic while diving. If any of these apply to you, your physician must assess the condition as it relates to diving and sign a medical form that confirms student divers are fit to dive.

### **Can my Scouts begin training online?**

Yes! You can get started immediately with your knowledge development online using the PADI eLearning system.