

12. Dive Planning

- Underwater photography
- Underwater hunting and collecting
- Underwater environment
- Scuba lifesaving and rescue
- Night diving
- Boat diving
- Dry suit diving
- Drift diving
- Cavern diving
- Altitude diving
- Nitrox diving (enriched air)

- Wreck diving (penetration)
- Ice diving
- Cave diving
- Deep and wall diving
- Light salvage
- River diving
- Search and recovery
- Rebreather diving
- Mixed-gas diving

Scuba equipment is a means to an end—a mechanism that enables you to go to areas that are otherwise unreachable by the average person. I think of scuba diving as a means of transporting myself to a destination where I can explore or participate in a special activity. Scuba diving without an objective loses its thrill after only a few dives. You need to develop an interest area, which can be anything from bottle collecting to wreck diving. When you have an objective for your dives, diving can be extremely rewarding. Over the years, I have participated in many different diving activities. My favorite underwater pursuit is photography. I can collect priceless memories without removing anything from the environment. In my opinion, underwater photography is the most challenging and the most satisfying dive activity. Select a diving activity that appeals to you, complete training for the activity, and then pursue it. You may choose several different activities. No matter what you choose to do while diving, I hope that your experiences will be as wonderful as mine have been.

Always remember that a good diver never stops learning. You should complete additional training, make sure you are trained for any special activity before you attempt the specialty, read as much as possible, join a dive club, and attend educational events. Take advantage of every opportunity to learn more about diving.

Increase your diving abilities and experience by applying what you learn. Participate in dive trips and charters. Research and plan your excursions thoroughly to maximize your enjoyment and minimize your disappointment. Many opportunities are available for diving adventures throughout the world.

Another opportunity for you as a diver is to make a positive contribution to the diving community. You can do this by conducting yourself in a responsible manner at all times and encouraging other divers to act responsibly. Help establish a good image of diving, get involved in issues that pertain to the diving environment, and help educate people who do not dive. Whether your contribution is small and personal or vast and international, you can make a difference. Decide now that your involvement in the wonderful pursuit of scuba diving will be a positive one.

1. Why are you learning to dive? Do you just want to investigate a new activity, or are you interested in an activity that requires scuba diving?
2. What do you visualize as your progression of training as a scuba diver?
3. How often do you think you will dive? Will most of your diving be local or related to dive travel?
4. If a nondiving friend asked you what can be done to reduce the risk of injury while scuba diving, what advice would you provide?
5. What causes you the greatest concern about scuba diving? What can you do to minimize your concerns?
6. How do you see yourself as a scuba diver in 5 years? In 10 years?

Diver Training Organizations

International Diving Educators Association (IDEA): www.ideascubausa.com/home_15.html

Multinational Diving Educators Association (MDEA): <http://neptuneshop.wix.com/mdea#!>

National Association of Scuba Educators (NASE): <http://naseworldwide.org>

National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI): www.nauui.org

Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI): www.padi.com/Scuba-Diving

Scuba Diving International: www.tdisdi.com

Scuba Educators International (SEI): www.seidiving.org

Scuba Schools International (SSI): www.divessi.com

Environmental Organizations

Blue Frontier Campaign: <http://bluefront.org>

Cousteau Society: www.cousteau.org

Earthecho International: <http://earthecho.org>

Living Oceans Society: www.livingoceans.org

Marine Conservation Society: www.mcsuk.org

Oceana: <http://oceana.org>

Ocean Defense International: www.oceandefense.org

Oceanic Preservation Society: www.opsociety.org

Reef Check: www.reefcheck.org

Reef Relief: www.reefrelief.org/mission

Save Our Seas: <http://saveourseas.com>

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society: www.seashepherd.org

Coral Reef Alliance: <http://coral.org>

Ocean Conservancy: www.oceanconservancy.org

The Ocean Project: <http://theoceanproject.org>

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Project: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Scuba Diving Magazines

Advanced Diver: www.advanceddiver magazine.com

Alert Diver: www.alertdiver.com

Dive Training: <https://dtmag.com>

Diver: <http://diver magazine.com>

Scuba Diving: www.scubadiving.com

Undercurrent: www.undercurrent.org

1. Some people learn to scuba dive because they seek a new experience or adventure. Scuba diving training opens the gate to a beautiful underwater world, which can provide many pursuits. Scuba diving should be considered a mode of transportation that takes you to places where you can pursue underwater interests such as exploring, photography, and wreck diving. After completion of your basic scuba diver training, continue your education and obtain an advanced scuba diver rating. With the additional skills acquired with advanced training, you will be ready to learn specialty activities and seek the rewards of your chosen endeavors.