



Divemaster Course

Overview

The NAUI Divemaster rating is the highest NAUI leadership level certification with the exception of Instructor. The program is designed to train experienced and knowledgeable divers to organize and conduct enjoyable open water dives for certified divers.

Qualifications of Graduates

An active-status NAUI Divemaster is qualified to organize and conduct dives for certified divers if the diving activities and locale approximate those in which the Divemaster is trained. Additional training, knowledge or experience is necessary for the Divemaster who desires to organize highly specialized activities, such as wreck penetration, cavern, ice or other technical dives or enter a new locale.

An active-status NAUI Divemaster is qualified to organize and conduct NAUI Recognition (such as International Diver) and award appropriate recognition materials to participants.

An active-status NAUI Divemaster is qualified to assist an active-status NAUI Instructor in diving courses.

If all other prerequisites are met, a current NAUI Divemaster is qualified to enter a NAUI Instructor Training Course (ITC).

Prerequisites For Entering The Course

- Minimum age of 18
- Preferred minimum certification level is NAUI Assistant Instructor (AI). Individuals not possessing the preferred certification may be accepted for training only if they meet the following criteria:
 - Certification as NAUI Master Scuba Diver and NAUI Scuba Rescue Diver or their equivalent. Divers with evidence of equivalent training and experience may be enrolled provided they pass the NAUI Master Scuba Diver and NAUI Scuba Rescue Diver written examinations with minimum scores of at least 75% on each.

- Documentation of diving experience with a minimum of 25 logged open water dives. Dives shall be varied in environment, depth and activities.
- Ability equivalent to that of a NAUI Assistant Instructor. Skills from the NAUI Assistant Instructor course standards shall be evaluated if the candidate is not already certified as a NAUI Assistant Instructor.
- Current certification or verified competency in CPR and First Aid is required for registration. Certification training shall include (at minimum) one person adult CPR and infant/child CPR.
- Verification of good physical condition as documented by a medical examination and unconditional approval for diving by a licensed physician within the preceding 12 months.

Course Duration

- Classroom hours – 20 are estimated
- Water hours – 10 required
- Open water dives – 10 minimum (combination of diving and divemastering)

Equipment Requirements

- Standard SCUBA equipment (including snorkel, alternate air source/octopus, timing device)

Skill Requirements – Open Water (not a complete list)

- Rescue another diver in the water during a skin/snorkel dive
- Pre-dive gear check for self and buddy
- Weight belt removal/replacement at the surface and under water
- Scuba unit removal/replacement at the surface
- Recover a weight belt of at least 10lbs from a depth of at least 20ft
- Simulate a decompression stop at 15ft for 5 minutes
- Clear mask
- Regulator retrieval and clearing
- Buddy breathing
- Perform an Emergency Swimming Ascent from at least 15ft
- Maintain proper buoyancy
- As a diver, perform a night dive
- As a Divemaster:
 - Control a satisfactory rescue of a diver simulating an underwater accident
 - Prepare and present at least 2 pre-dive briefings
 - Assist an active-status NAUI Instructor with an early open water experience for students. Students may be actual or simulated
 - Organize and conduct a shore/beach dive for certified divers
 - Organize and conduct a dive in a significantly different setting than a shore/beach dive (boat dive for example)
 - Organize and conduct a night/limited visibility dive for certified divers

Academic Topics (not a complete list)

- NAUI orientation
- Divemaster duties – Techniques involved in planning, organizing and controlling a group dive. Included shall be: the analysis, selection and pre-dive evaluation of a dive site, pre-dive meetings and briefings, post-dive debriefings, divemaster checklists and logs, use of safety divers, divemaster responsibilities and dive flag use. Special procedures for working as a dive guide, leading trips and working with instructors on open water training dives are to be covered in detail.
- Divemaster legal responsibilities – Legal concepts such as negligence, standard of care, the necessity for liability insurance, waivers and indemnity agreements, taking of artifacts and game and the legal relationship between boat owner, Captain, instructor and divemaster. NAUI specific information shall be included.
- Shore Diving – Organizational problems of shore diving in salt and fresh water environments, including problems of entry and exit point selection, hazards, signals, flags, floats, surface support stations, current, tides, wind, sunburn, chilling, crowd control, small boat and other aquatic traffic.
- Emergency procedures – Actions to be taken if an emergency occurs, including effective use of assistants and equipment, underwater communications, diver recall methods, search techniques, assists and rescues, victim care and handling, emergency and first aid equipment, accessing emergency systems and accident reports.
- Boat diving – Techniques involved in small and large boat diving, including required boat equipment and licensing, navigation and rules of the road, boating etiquette and safety, refuelling, anchoring, docking, weather conditions and broadcasts, as well as charts, navigation aids and sources of information. The Captain/Divemaster relationship, diver management from a boat-based operation, ladders, platforms and safety lines, boat diving etiquette, equipment stowage, safety procedures and boat rescue techniques. Small boat diving (2 to 6 divers) versus large boat diving operations are to be discussed.
- Night and limited visibility diving – Procedures used and problems that can arise. Daytime reconnaissance of the night dive site is to be emphasized as well as planning and safety procedures, lights (underwater, surface, shore, boat), special equipment, typical and local hazards, buddy lines, rope signals, dive recalls, underwater communications, diving limits, lost diver problems, checklists and problems associated with limited visibility diving both underwater and at the surface.
- Open water rescues – Techniques and problems associated with open water rescues. Areas to be covered include rough water rescue considerations, conducting search and recovery operations, and treatment, care and handling of unconscious divers.
- Deep and decompression diving – The problems a Divemaster must avoid or deal with in an emergency decompression situation. It is to be emphasized that the need for decompression diving should be avoided in recreational diving. Included are the planning, concepts, methods and equipment used in such

diving. The student Divemaster is to have a thorough knowledge of decompression and repetitive dive tables, dive computers and know the first aid, treatment and transportation techniques for emergencies involving decompression sickness and suspected lung overexpansion injuries. Altitude considerations and restrictions on flying after diving are to be covered.

- Underwater environment – The physical and biological aspects of the diving environment with emphasis on the local area, including plant and animal life, the importance of fostering a regard for ecology and conservation, tides, currents, waves and surf, shore and bottom conditions, surface hazards and wind effects.
- Equipment – Common equipment problems, recognition of unsafe or improperly assembled equipment, variations in types of gear, incorrect wear and handling and pre-dive equipment checks.