

5. Future Buddies

5.1 Introduction

This program is designed to provide children between the ages of 8 and 12, an introduction to scuba diving in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of an active instructor.

5.2 Qualifications of Graduates

There are no specific qualifications available after graduation

5.3 Who May Teach

An active *SDI Open Water Scuba Diver* Instructor

5.4 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter.

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)

1. A maximum of 2 students per instructor

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)

1. N/A

5.5 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 8 with parental consent
2. Demonstrate comfort and adequate swimming skills

5.6 Course Structure and Duration

Confined Water Execution

1. Training depth must not exceed 6 metres / 20 feet
2. One dive required, second dive optional
3. All dives must be completed during daylight hours and with adequate lighting conditions

Course Structure

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level.

Duration

1. The suggested number of training hours is 4

5.7 Administrative Requirements**Administrative Tasks:**

1. Collect the course fees from all the students
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment
3. Communicate the schedule to the students
4. Have the students complete the:
 - a. *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form*
 - b. *SDI Medical Statement Form*

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor may:

1. Issue an SDI Experience card, optional

5.8 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment as described earlier in section two of this manual. The exception to this is that a dive computer is not required, however it is highly recommended.

5.9 Required Subject Areas

Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered during this course:

1. History of Diving
2. The Aquatic Environment
 - a. Marine environment
 - b. Marine life
3. Physics and Physiology
 - a. Buoyancy
 - b. Pressure
 - c. Air spaces
 - d. Equalization techniques
 - e. Lung over-expansion problems

4. Breathing air under pressure
5. Scuba Equipment
 - a. Mask, fins and snorkel
 - b. Exposure protection
 - i. Wetsuits
 - c. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD)
 - d. Regulator
 - i. Primary regulator
 - ii. Alternate air source
 - e. Cylinders
 - f. Weight systems
 - g. Underwater instruments
 - i. Submersible pressure gauge
 - ii. Dive computers
 - iii. Depth gauges
6. Accessories
 - a. Dive flag

5.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

The required skills should be performed in confined water with a maximum depth of 6 metres / 20 feet:

1. Weight system adjustment with proper weighting
2. Pre-dive check of self and buddy
3. Mask clearing; partial
4. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD) use
 - a. Inflation using low pressure inflator and deflation, at the surface
5. Buoyancy Control
 - a. Controlled ascents and descents
6. Regulator use
7. Underwater swimming; proper use of fins
8. Use of gauges
9. Underwater communications

In order to complete this course, students must:

1. Demonstrate mature and sound judgment concerning dive planning and execution