

Dear Future DDS Diver,

Welcome and congratulations on enrolling in your Open Water Scuba course at Dan's Dive Shop - Canada's oldest PADI training facility #23! Prepare for a lot of fun, learning, and amazing experiences as you embark on a thrilling journey that can last a life-time.

We are proud to offer the most progressive dive training in the business. Diving differently, better, with the most modern equipment and utilizing the most progressive skills, DDS training sets you apart from the rest.

Our Philosophy:

- Offer the best training to keep our divers safe, responsible and a cut above the rest
- Train in and promote the most modern gear so divers benefit from simplicity, efficiency and proper diving posture
- Sell the right gear the first time so our divers don't have to break the bank buying upgrades

Purchasing the right dive gear is key, as the wrong gear will hinder your progress, enjoyment and performance in the water. DDS believes in selling you the right gear once, so it can grow with you. As your needs, experiences and environments change, your gear shouldn't.

What's Expected of new divers?

Open Water Students need to purchase their snorkeling equipment. Mask, strap fins, snorkel, boots and a surface marker buoy (SMB) are the minimum required items, but many students also purchase their own exposure suits, and many even purchase their entire scuba system. We also offer special incentives and discounts for our enrolled students, as discussed below, as well as affordable financing with low monthly payments and low rate of interest.



Mask: This is your window to the underwater world. A low-volume silicone mask with tempered glass lenses is a must. We recommend a mask with black silicone to enhance available light, reduce reflective glare and improve focus on objects you're viewing. Prescription lenses are also available. Masks may be fitted with a neoprene strap, especially for women to avoid hair pulling and reduce strap breakage associated with silicone straps.



Strap Fins: Not of the split, full-foot or hinge variety, worn with a 5-7mm boot. Fins should be stiff and come, or be compatible, with spring heel straps that not only provide more secure fit, but also improve strength, reliability, ease of donning and prevention of entanglement. Our fin recommendations promote proper weighting, trim, buoyancy and propulsion techniques regardless of your choice of exposure suit (wetsuit, drysuit, no suit) or the size and number of tanks you choose to dive with.

Your fin selection should promote a knees up, fins up position common to the slightly heavier fins such as a Scubapro Jet Fin. Lightweight fins tend to float up and can make it difficult for a diver to control their buoyancy. Fins should be made of durable rubber or monprene. You want the same posture as a sky diver underwater, proper fins help, especially with spring heel straps which promote more secure fit, are unbreakable and easier on and off.



Snorkel:

A PADI scuba equipment requirement. Purchase something affordable and simple unless you enjoy snorkeling as a hobby too. Reinvest the money you save on the snorkel into a better pair of fins or mask. For snorkeling enthusiasts we have dry snorkels available which keep water out above and below to improve your overall enjoyment.



Boots: 5-7mm neoprene should be tried on with fins to ensure proper fit. Be comfortable, go full length not 1/2 length as they are part of your exposure protection and should overlap with your wetsuit leg. This protects skin and keeps you warmer in colder waters.

CHECK OUT OUR AMAZING PACKAGE DEALS on all snorkeling/exposure suit combos.



DSMB: Delayed Surface Marker Buoy is a new PADI standard piece of safety equipment, and a requirement for all Open Water courses starting 2014. DSMBs help alert surface personnel to a diver's whereabouts on a drift dive or in the case of an emergency. PADI standards also allow a safety float for surface signalling only, but we prefer the SMB as it can be deployed from depth with a spool of line.

What Makes DDS Different?

DDS has partnered with Divers Edge, the country's most experienced diving educators. We promote techniques that were previously unavailable in traditional recreational dive training in North America until 2000, which is when we learned there was a better way...

The traditional dive training mindset has been:



- herd students through as many courses as quickly as possible.
- sell poorly designed and less-effective gear and training until the students become more wise to it.
- kneel on the bottom, and ascend and descend vertically oftentimes hitting the bottom, stirring up silt or hanging vertical on an ascent line preventing other dives access to it.
- use bulky jacket-style buoyancy systems and weight belts or integrated waist mounted weights that force your body vertical keeping fins closest to the fragile

aquatic environment.

- employ regulators with short hoses that are inefficient in a rescue situation, or hang down too low dragging along the bottom, damaging fragile marine life, or can be snagged by obstacles and other divers fins/flailing hands.

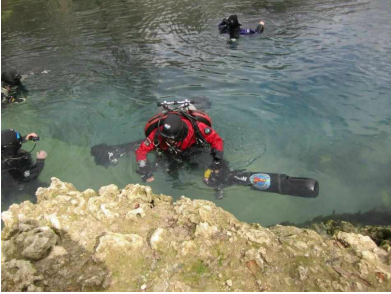


Divers are usually taught the inefficient flutter kick technique, requiring more effort with reduced results and a higher work of breathing.

Lack of team diving and buddy awareness, dependency on the instructors, lack of discipline and understanding of buoyancy or finesse are also downfalls of the traditional dive training system.

The diver often has a haphazard collection of dangling objects on the BCD which resembles a fully decorated Christmas tree full of ornaments. This reduces streamlining, efficiency, poses an obstacle if the diver were to require emergency assistance, increasing task loading.

Traditional divers also use hands excessively since they have not learned proper fin and buoyancy techniques.



Progressive Diving Education

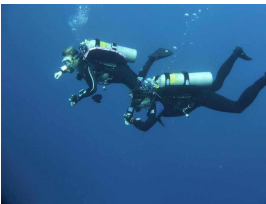
DDS offers modern and progressive training inspired by the Hogarthian, DIR (Doing it Right) or NTEC philosophy. A more organized way of diving, with head-to-toe re-working of equipment in the most efficient, simple and streamlined manner. Diving this way maximizes rescuer response, streamlines hoses to avoid entanglement, eliminates dangling objects, and teaches proper horizontal diver posture. Divers are taught a range of finning techniques such as the frog kick, modified frog, modified flutter kick,

helicopter turns and back fin techniques which eliminate the need for inefficient hand swimming.



We teach exclusively in Halcyon Infinity Backplate systems - the best buoyancy system on the market. Backplates promote the right posture, trim and buoyancy in the water while offering the most streamlined profile. Gear configuration is standardized globally. There are no breakable plastic clips, and the harness is custom fitted to the individual wearing it, not classing you into a size from Extra Small to Extra Large like most BCDs.

DDS Divers are the most competent divers in the water and with every dive, trip, and additional training you participate in, you'll feel more comfortable and have more fun! That's why DDS offers weekly dives throughout the dive season as well as monthly trips both local and exotic.



The Best of Both Worlds: DDS sells and services the widest selection of both "Progressive" & "Traditional" scuba diving equipment, while offering the best selection, pricing and service anywhere. We can hit any budget you're working with, which is even easier now that we offer financing! If you could own all your dive gear from \$22.00/month, why wouldn't you?



Continuing Your Dive Education

We know you just signed up for the open water course, but we're excited about the vast array of additional training options and hope you are too!

Open Water Diver is your first course in a series of programs designed to give you total mastery of skills in the water. Originally open water courses were 15 weeks long and covered all facets of advanced dive

theory, scuba rescue, deeper diving with a heavy focus on watermanship. But things have changed and now we offer more bite-sized classes for you to digest when you're ready to go to the next level. In your case that would be Advanced Open Water, Enriched Air Nitrox, Rescue Diver, various Specialties and eventually Technical Diving and Cave Diving.



DDS is unique: We not only offer the countries most progressive Recreational Diver training, but also the most progressive Technical Diving, Cavern and Cave diving, Shipwreck External Survey and Penetration, Ice diving, Diver Propulsion Vehicle, Photography, Sidemount, Deep, Drysuit, Leadership level courses, Emergency First Response CPR courses, Oxygen provider, AED, Rebreather and much more.

Divers from around the world come train with us because they're impressed by our solid reputation and cutting edge courses. Many students travel hours to

study with us, and even drive/fly our instructors out to different locales to teach them and their groups.

Rest assured you will always feel supported and challenged to go to the next level at DDS. There isn't a course that we can't offer, a trip we won't run, so you'll always gain new knowledge and skills to put to use underwater.

Join the growing trend of more aware and more progressive diving



Additional Course Options: While enrolled as a DDS Student we also offer some additional savings on courses you can combine with your open water course. Students can take advantage of our PADI Drysuit Option combining your open water dives with Drysuit Diver certification, keeping you drier, warmer and more comfortable underwater for only \$175 (Saves \$100).

Enriched Air Nitrox is another great course which you can benefit from right away. A higher concentration of oxygen in your breathing mix increases wellness during and after the dive, reducing the amount of nitrogen uptake which creates post-dive fatigue. The greatest advantage is increased bottom time by 40-60% on average. Cost is only \$150 including manual & certification card.



Money Back Gift Card: Purchase your life support system (bcd/regulator/dive computer) from DDS during your open water course and we'll give you a gift card (up to \$100 value) as a thank-you. Use your own gear NOT our rental equipment for your open water checkout dives, and you'll be more comfortable in gear suited just for you! You can then begin your diving career in style, in the best gear available, and start enjoying the ease, comfort and security of ownership instead of relying on rentals.

Life After Open Water



Once you're a DDS Diver you have a vast world of opportunities for diving: enjoy our regularly scheduled dives Wednesday evenings, as well as weekends. These dives range from shallow shore and drift dives to boat charters exploring the many shipwrecks in our Great Lakes. We offer day trips, local weekend getaways, and trips down south to northern Florida's fresh water springs, the Caribbean and

other exotic locales. Our popular trips can book up years in advance, so get involved early and often to maximize your diving!

Trips are the perfect way to get to know other divers and learn from DDS staff and mentors, getting the right direction, motivation and challenge through continued skill refinement and team building.

Diving is a lifelong hobby for many, including some who we first certified in 1974! Join our diving family and get the most out of the time and energy you are investing in this course. There is always a dive buddy to dive with, a dive site to see, and fun to be had....

If you have questions, feedback, concerns, please feel free to contact me personally.

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