

AQUARIUM DIVER COURSE TRAINING MANUAL FOR THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE



Aquarium Diver Course Training Manual

Aquarium Diver student logistics and protocol

1. Staff Instructor meets aquarium staff member at the aquarium at 2:30pm on dive day
2. Set up classroom and presentation.
3. Divide student (guest) diver's two groups for dives (this way you can inform them on their first dive location prior to meeting them at 3:00 pm. Place dive carts in backup area with extra weight, tanks and BCD's sizes if possible.
4. Each exhibit will support up to 6 student divers
5. Meet student guest divers at 3pm at Staff entrance (next to submarine), inform them of their 1st dive location so they can inform family and friends
6. Escort student divers (guest) through security and to classroom.
7. Collect and check all paperwork. Certification card verification, medical form. Aquarium liability release, PADI liability release, safe diving statement of understanding
8. Conduct presentation until 4:30 pm.
9. Escort student divers to dive locker to drop off dive bags (hall outside dive locker) - valuables should remain on person until access to locker when returning.
10. Conduct tour and on site briefing at dive locations (Wings of Water and Coral Reef) only dive locations for dives that day.
11. 4:30 pm staff arrives (briefing and preparation)
12. 5:00 pm staff enters dive locker to set up gear
13. 5:15 pm return students to dive locker to prepare for dives
14. 5:40 pm divers enter first exhibit for dive. 30 minute dive
15. 6:15 pm transfer divers to 2nd dive in exhibit (transfer gear with divers)

Dive Instructional Team Responsibilities and Safety Protocol

1. Arrive at Aquarium at 4:30 for briefing update and equipment assembly. Do not enter dive locker until 5pm to begin set up of gear. Set up personal gear and prepare for students.
2. Set up student gear and mark with tags placed on tank valves. Position student equipment on dive platforms (check sizing to accommodate students)
3. Check platforms for any loose or unsafe items, including lettuce screws, weights etc.
4. At least three Instructional Team members will assist with each group. Two in the water as a safety diver and one surface tender. (Aquarium dive regulations require a surface tender).
5. Instructional Team members handle all equipment in exhibit areas, students should not load or push dive cart that would interfere with aquarium visitors.
6. Transfer to the other exhibit after a 30 minute dive. Have student carry their mask and weight belts to the next exhibit.
7. Once dives are complete, lead students back to dive locker for debriefing and changing.

8. Complete certification envelopes and log books for students and direct them out of the aquarium.
9. Instructional Team disassembles all student gear and personal gear.
10. Clean and organize dive locker. Including squeegee floor, drain tub and fill tanks. Only individuals with fill certifications and approval by the dive safety officer can fill cylinders.

Staff Requirements:

1. Wetsuit: All staff and students must have full body coverage, including booties and gloves. Students and staff must be COMPLETELY dressed prior to exiting the dive locker (wetsuits may not be pulled down to the waist.) Hoods are not required (aquarium does have gloves on location).
2. Staff must be Rescue Diver level or above certification. Must bring certification card to the aquarium.
3. Since Atlantic Edge is a contract company, NAIB does not pay for their parking. Atlantic Edge will cover staff parking fees for the dive period.

Emergency Procedures:

Water (Dive) Emergency

Safety alarms

Pier 3: Atlantic Coral Reef-west side of dive platform under edge.

Open Ocean (shark exhibit) - north side of blue stairway door above water

Wings in the Water-opposite dive platform

Activation:

Depressing red button activates alarm

Enunciators:

The alarm sounds in the following locations:

Dive Locker

Security, via METASYS

Hall outside level 2 Fishes Section offices

Hall outside Biological Programs offices

Use of the Alarm:

The alarm shall only be used in the event of a human life threatening emergency where assistance is required. The alarm is not to be used for animal emergencies.

Response:

Assist the diver out of the water and notify security for emergency assistance. Aquarium staff support will have radio to notify security. If not use house phone to contact security.

Fire Alarms:

Building alarms will sound as well as Enunciators underwater.

Response:

Recall all divers, leave equipment on platforms and evacuate building- lead group to grass area to the left of pier 3. In winter

time meet inside Boarders Books. Account for all members of your team and report to security officer.

Emergency Equipment:

Throw ropes located on the dive platforms. Oxygen and other medical equipment required will be in the first aid room on the first floor next to bubble tubes. AED's are located across from the elevator on the first floor at the Wings on the Water dive platform level and near the Harbor View Restaurant on the fourth floor.