



2023 FAQs



Thank you for your interest in the MMI SCUBA Tigers Dive Team. The following frequently asked questions are to guide and acquaint you to our team. We are in our 10th-year of SCUBA lessons and open-water certifications; 200 open water certified divers in the history of the program with 75 more achieving advanced Nitrox certification and 65 receiving spearfishing training. Our training partner is Birmingham-based Southern Skin Divers Supply.

- **Who is Southern Skin Divers Supply (SSDS)?** MMI has partnered with SSDS as our professional provider since the founding of our team in 2013. SSDS was founded in 1953 and also is the oldest SCUBA School in the US. SSDS is a certifying agency for Scuba Diving International ([SDI](#)). Learn more about SSDS by visiting their [Facebook page](#).
- **What does SCUBA training involve?** We train for two weekends (four days total) in September, generally starting the weekend after Labor Day. Training begins with classroom and pool instruction followed by your open water check dives. Classroom instruction and pool training and exercises are conducted in MMI's pool under the guidance and supervision of SSDS. After all classroom and pool training and testing are completed, your open water check dives will be scheduled. Open water dive locations will depend on weather and open weekend availability.
- **What SCUBA equipment do I need?** SCUBA diving is an equipment intensive sport, like many water sports. Equipment needed for the MMI Dive Team includes, snorkeling and life support equipment. Snorkeling Equipment = mask, snorkel, fins, booties, and wetsuit. Life Support Equipment = dive computer, air regulators (primary and secondary), and a buoyancy compensator (BC). *Note: Safety comes first in SCUBA at MMI and SSDS, and safe SCUBA is all about the proper equipment. Having the right equipment and knowing how to use your equipment is extremely important in scuba diving. Therefore, MMI does not allow rented equipment for diving.*
- **About how much does the equipment cost?** Total cost can range from \$3,100-\$3,700 for all equipment, depending on your personal selections from various models. (Snorkel equipment costs \$700-\$950, and life support ranges \$2,400-\$2,750). SSDS offers a 10% discount for MMI SCUBA students, if balance is paid in full. SSDS is an authorized and premier Aqua Lung dealer, which was originally formed when Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Émile Gagnan developed the first "aqua-lung" demand regulator, introducing the world to scuba diving in 1943. SSDS will send in the product warranties directly to Aqua Lung. *Note: DO NOT purchase any old or used SCUBA equipment that has not been serviced for an extended period. Also, for your safety we strongly discourage purchasing SCUBA equipment from online stores.*
- **What is the cost for certification training?** If you purchase your SCUBA equipment from SSDS, the training cost is \$495. If your SCUBA equipment is already purchased from an outside vendor, the training cost is \$1,100.

- **What are the payment terms?** A deposit of \$500 is required to secure a spot on the dive team roster. The \$500 deposit will be applied, in full, to the purchase of your SCUBA equipment. All payments are made directly to SSDS. Remaining charges for SCUBA equipment will be due at the last class. Method of payment accepted: credit/debit cards (MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover), checks made payable to Southern Skin Divers Supply, or cash (if you prefer to pay in cash, you may give your payment to the SSDS rep at the SCUBA table during check-in days in August.)
- **How do I sign up?** We're glad you asked! Please email mmiscubatigers@marionmilitary.edu and we will add you to our training roster. As soon as SSDS receives your deposit, your spot will be locked-in for the dive team! Seats are open on a first-come, first-serve basis and class size will be limited to 30 students. You will receive a confirmation email from us!
- **I'm already a certified diver. Can I still join the MMI Dive Team?** Absolutely! Because we practice "safe SCUBA" here at MMI and SSDS, we will want you to participate in pool training hours with us during our training schedule to make sure you are comfortable with your dive equipment. *Note: We still require you to own your own equipment in order to participate in MMI dive trips. If gear is purchased from SSDS, you will receive a 10% discount. If you haven't been diving in over a year, a refresher course is required.*
- **Do you offer advanced SCUBA training?** Yes, we do. Each year MMI and SSDS offer a NITROX and Spearfishing Clinic held on campus. Additional SDI continuing education training are available through SSDS to include stress and rescue, underwater photography, etc. You will hear more in detail about advanced training during your open-water class instruction.
- **What dive trips are offered throughout the school year?** SSDS offers additional group trips throughout the year.
- **Is the MMI Dive Team a major time commitment?** The only time that is required is the certification training. Our training does not interfere with ACT or SAT testing times. All dive trips are optional, and students must maintain a "C" average ("B" for SAPs) in order to participate in dive trips.
- **Should I be afraid of sea life such as jelly fish, sharks, sting rays, etc.?** You should not be afraid, but respect everything in the water. Observing sea life without harassing or touching is safe practice for yourself and the underwater environment.

See you down under this Fall!



Fall 2023 Training Dates:*

9-10 September

16-17 September

*training will not interfere with ACT or SAT testing times

If you have any additional questions, please email us:

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@MMIScubaTigers



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Southern Skin Divers Supply

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