

ABOUT YOUR CERTIFICATION WEEKEND

You are now starting Part 1 of your Open Water Diver Course (classroom & pool sessions)! However, to complete your certification process there are 4 required Open Water Dives that you will also need to do.

Here are some reminders to help you plan and choose the best option for you (please, read the entire subsection regarding the dive location of your choosing).

1. [AURORA RESERVOIR \(LOCAL\)](#)
2. [TROPICAL CHOICE \(STORE TRIP\)](#)
3. [CRATER \(UTAH\)](#)
4. [BLUE HOLE \(NEW MEXICO\)](#)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask us.

1. CHATFIELD RESERVOIR (LOCAL)

EQUIPMENT RENTAL PICK UP

Your equipment will be ready to be picked up at Underwater Connection any time **after 12pm (noon)** on the **Friday** prior to your certification weekend. Your sizing will be done during your Class & Pool sessions.

Please note that you will also be taking **tanks** along with the rest of your equipment. You will potentially need to switch your empty tanks for full ones at Underwater Connection at the end of your first day of diving. Find more about it below.

RENTAL PRICING FOR OPEN WATER STUDENTS:

Prices are per student and per weekend.

\$50 - when you own mask, snorkel, fins and boots. *

\$75 - when you own mask and snorkel. *

\$125 - when you need to rent all the equipment.

* Remember that as an Open Water student you are eligible for 15% discount on those items.

MEETING PLACE & TIMES

The **SCUBA Diving area** is located at the far northeast part of the gravel ponds. If you search for 5280 Paddlesports on your GPS you will be taken to the right place, except we meet and dive on the north side of the reservoir, right before you get to the Paddlesports parking lot.

Please note that the reservoir is located at a State Park that is busy during the warm months of the year, and to find parking you must arrive very early.

The meeting time is **7am** on both **Saturday** and **Sunday**, unless you are told otherwise by your instructor.

There is a **\$10/day per car user fee** at Chatfield Reservoir, to be paid once you are there, not at UWC.

WHAT TO BRING

Apart from your scuba equipment, of course, we recommend you bring **sunscreen** and a couple **towels** to dry off in between and after your dives. Also make sure to account for the weather, especially if it's Spring or Fall, for it can get windy and you will appreciate having warm **layers** when you are done.

For **lunch and drinks**, UWC will have you covered on **Saturday**. Please, make your own lunch plans for Sunday. It's also never a bad idea to bring extra water or snacks.

Lastly, bring your **Log book** so the instructor can sign your training dives!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FOR THOSE DOING **OPEN WATER** ONLY:

2 dives per day on each of Saturday and Sunday. If all goes well, you may be finished by 12-1 pm, and be able to return/swap your tanks to UWC in Colorado Springs.

FOR THOSE LOOKING TO DO BOTH **OPEN WATER** AND **ADVANCED ADVENTURER**: *

Because we are only allowed to do three training dives per day it is not possible to complete both the Open Water and the Advanced Adventurer

courses in one weekend. You can still get a discount when registering for both, but you will have to go to the reservoir twice to complete both courses.

FOR THOSE TAKING **OTHER COURSES**:

Training standards only allow 3 training dives per day. Depending on the amount of dives your course requires, your schedule will vary. Your instructor will give you that orientation during class but, please, if there are any questions don't hesitate to contact the UWC Staff.

TANK SWITCH IN COLORADO SPRINGS:

Depending on the classes you are signed up for there might be between 2 and 3 tanks per diver. Those tanks will need to be switched after your first day of diving. If you make it back to Colorado Springs before 5pm the retail store will still be open and you can do your tank switch then. If you are not going to be back in time, arrange will be made with your instructor either at the end of the day or right before driving back up on Sunday.

The above is a tentative schedule, and it is subject to changes.

* You can **save up to \$250** by adding on courses, like your Advanced Adventurer, during the same weekend. Ask the retail staff to learn how!

EQUIPMENT RENTAL RETURN

Your rental equipment is to be returned no later than the end of the **Monday** after your weekend. If you are done on Sunday you can still return it then, only if UWC Retail is still open and you have time to rinse it off.

UWC's opening hours on Sunday are from 11am to 3pm and on Monday from 10am to 6:30pm.

The equipment is to be returned on the same condition you rented it. Please make sure to rinse it off. If returned dirty you will be charged a **\$25** cleaning/maintenance fee.

2. TROPICAL CHOICE (STORE TRIP)

WHICH DESTINATION TO CHOOSE?

If it is your **Open Water Diver Course** we're talking about, we highly recommend **Caribbean** like conditions as they are the absolute best possible for learning (fantastic aquatic life, great visibility, warm waters and generally easy diving).

Our most popular choices for students are **Cozumel** and **Bonaire**, as their cost is hard to beat. We do, however, have many other options and as long as you don't choose a liveaboard (best for more experienced divers) you are good to go!

If you are already a certified diver we're talking about **Continuing Education**, and pretty much any diving trip you choose will give you the opportunity to advance your skills. You might want to check out our specialties or our Advanced Adventurer and Rescue courses. If you are not sure which ones will best match your choice of destination, come see the UWC Staff for advice.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL & PRICING

Your equipment will be ready to be picked up at Underwater Connection **the day before your flight**. If you have any different schedules than the rest of the group, please let us know so that we can plan accordingly. Your sizing is done during your Class & Pool sessions or ahead of time.

The pricing will change depending on what equipment you need. You can find the pricing on UWC's website or with the retail staff. We do, however, give **half off** on the **weekly rate** for students renting equipment on a trip with UWC.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Training standards only allow 3 training dives per day. Depending on the amount of dives your course requires, and on the destination you choose, your schedule will vary.

FOR OPEN WATER STUDENTS:

Your first 3 training dives will be from shore, and your last dive will be with the rest of the group on the boat. The exact schedule will be determined by location, and your instructor will contact you ahead of time.

FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDENTS:

Since you are already certified you can join the boat from the very beginning and most likely do some of your training dives both on the boat and from the shore during your vacation week. Your instructor will tell you the plan while you go through your Knowledge Reviews before the trip.

The above is a tentative schedule, and it is subject to changes.

* You can **save up to \$250** by adding on courses, like your Advanced Adventurer, on the same trip. Ask the retail staff to learn how!

EQUIPMENT RENTAL RETURN

Your rental equipment is to be returned no later than the **day after your return.**

The equipment is to be returned in the same condition you rented it. Please make sure to rinse it off. If returned dirty you will be charged a **\$25** cleaning/maintenance fee.

3. CRATER (UTAH)

EQUIPMENT RENTAL PICK UP

Your equipment will be ready to be picked up time at Underwater Connection any time after 12pm (noon) on the Wednesday prior your Crater weekend. Your sizing is done during your Class & Pool sessions. You will be taking **tanks** along with the rest of your equipment.

Please note that the water is too warm to wear any exposure suits thicker than a t-shirt or a rash guard. In case you would like to have a water shirt, UWC has several styles for you to choose from, ranging from \$25 to \$50.

RENTAL PRICING FOR OPEN WATER STUDENTS:

Prices are per student and per weekend.

\$35 - when you own mask, snorkel, fins and boots. *[\[1\]](#)

\$50 - when you own mask and snorkel. *[\[1\]](#)

\$80 - when you need to rent all the equipment.[\[1\]](#)

* Remember that as an Open Water student you are eligible for 15% discount on those items.

[\[1\]](#)You will be given tanks and weights from UWC; however, should you choose to not take them or you choose to fly, tanks can be rented from The Crater for \$10 each and weights for \$5 per day. You will need between 2-4 tanks.

MEETING PLACE & TIMES

The **Crater** is located at the Homestead Resort in Midway, UT. It is a great Resort on its own and is where the UWC staff will stay and where you will meet for your dives. When making your hotel reservations, mention you are diving with Underwater Connection during your stay or use the code "**underwater**" to get a better rate.

The drive there is about 9 hours from Colorado Springs. You can also fly to Salt Lake City and drive from there, which would be about 1 hour. If you choose to fly, there are 2 things to consider: 1 - you will have to rent tanks and weights there (pricing above). The instructors cannot bring extras; they will be driving and must bring class materials and their own equipment. 2 - when booking flights remember the flying and diving rule: you can only fly after at least 18hrs from your last dive.

You will meet your instructor at the **Crater's Activity Center** and the times vary with the month. You will receive an email with details once we get closer to the certification weekend, but for planning purposes you can contact the staff at UWC to find out what the meeting times should be for your chosen month.

Please know that there is a **\$27 per person per day** Crater diving fee to be paid there and not to UWC.

WHAT TO BRING

Apart from your scuba equipment, we recommend you bring **towels** for in between and after your dives. Also make sure to account for the weather: the crater is domed and protected from the elements, but even if you are diving at 96 degrees water you might still come out for a snowy view of the mountains and you will appreciate having warm **layers** when you are done.

Bring your **Log book** so the instructor can sign your training dives!

As far as more to do in Midway while you are not diving, it will depend on the time of the year, but you could potentially go skiing, sleigh riding or golfing in the area. Also, check if the Ice Castles are open during your visit. You have everything to make it a weekend to remember!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FOR THOSE DOING OPEN WATER:

You will do 2 dives per day on both Friday and Saturday.

FOR THOSE TAKING OTHER COURSES:

Training standards only allow 3 training dives per day. Depending on the amount of dives your course requires, your schedule will vary. Your instructor will give you that orientation during class but, please, if there are any questions do not hesitate to contact the UWC Staff.

The above is a tentative schedule, and it is subject to changes.

* You can **save up to \$250** by adding on courses, like your Advanced Adventurer. Ask the retail staff to learn how!

EQUIPMENT RENTAL RETURN

Your rental equipment is to be returned no later than the end of the **Monday** after your weekend. If you are done on Sunday you can still return it then, only if UWC is still open and you have time to rinse it off.

UWC's opening hours on Sunday are from 11am to 3pm and on Monday from 10am to 6:30pm.

The equipment is to be returned in the same condition you rented it. Please make sure to rinse it off. If returned dirty you will be charged a **\$25** cleaning/maintenance fee.

4. BLUE HOLE (NEW MEXICO)

EQUIPMENT RENTAL PICK UP

Your equipment will be ready to be picked up at Underwater Connection any time **after 12pm (noon)** on the **Thursday** prior your Blue Hole weekend. Your sizing will be done during your Class & Pool sessions.

Please note that you will also be taking **tanks** along with the rest of your equipment.

RENTAL PRICING FOR OPEN WATER STUDENTS:

Prices are per student and per weekend.

\$50 - when you own mask, snorkel, fins and boots. *

\$75 - when you own mask and snorkel. *

\$125 - when you need to rent all the equipment.

* Remember that as an Open Water/Advanced Adventurer student you are eligible for 15% discount on those items.

MEETING PLACE & TIMES

The drive to Santa Rosa, NM normally takes about 5 hours, depending on the weather.

Regardless of your hotel arrangements, you will meet your instructor at the **lobby of La Quinta Inn**, if arriving for the Friday dives, or straight at the **Blue Hole**, if arriving for the Saturday dives.

If you are diving on **Friday**, the meeting time is **11am** and if you are diving on **Saturday**, then the meeting time is **8am**, unless you are told otherwise by your instructor.

There is a **\$20/weekend per diver fee** at the Blue Hole, to be paid once you are there, not at UWC.

WHAT TO BRING

Apart from your scuba equipment, of course, we recommend you bring **sunscreen** and a couple **towels** to dry off in between and after your dives. Also make sure to account for the weather, especially if it's the cold months of the year, for it can get windy and you will appreciate having warm **layers** when you are done.

Please also bring snacks/lunch and water for your surface intervals.

Lastly, bring your **Log book** so the instructor can sign your training dives!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FOR THOSE DOING **OPEN WATER** ONLY:

You have the option to dive **either** Friday and Saturday **or** Saturday and Sunday. Once you are certified, you have the ability to continue diving with any time left!

FOR THOSE LOOKING TO DO BOTH **OPEN WATER** AND **ADVANCED ADVENTURER**: *

You will do 3 of your Open Water Diver dives on **Friday** and your final OW Diver dive on **Saturday** morning. You will then do 2 adventure dives on **Saturday** afternoon. The last 3 dives of your Advanced course will be completed on **Sunday**.

FOR THOSE TAKING **OTHER COURSES**:

Training standards only allow 3 training dives per day. Depending on the amount of dives your course requires, your schedule will vary. Your instructor will give you that orientation during class, but please, if there are any questions don't hesitate to contact the UWC Staff.

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