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Willoughby, OH 44094
(440) 942-7575

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(440) 734-3000

GUIDE TO OPEN WATER TRAINING DIVES 2023

Congratulations! Now that you have successfully completed the class and pool portion of the Open Water Certification Course, you are now a JUST ADD WATER REFERRAL DIVER! Excited, nervous and full of questions about what comes next? These feelings are totally normal and this guide will walk you through the process to help ensure an enjoyable finish to the certification process.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A REFERRAL DIVER

Once you have completed all of the academic and confined water requirements, you are a certified Referral Diver! This means that you are technically a certified pool diver and you are also able to enroll in some specialty classes, even before you have completed your Open Water Training Dives. Finding ways to continue your education helps you practice and get more bottom time before you dive in an open water environment!

As a Referral diver you may:

PRACTICE AND PLAY

With Just Add Water you are invited to come to the pool, dive for fun, practice and play as much as you want. You don't even need an instructor. Has it been a few months since you were last in the water? We have pool time reserved many weekends throughout the year. Schedule a date to get wet and practice those skills! *(Referral divers, if it has been more than 6 months between your class and pool to your Open Water Dives you will need to get back in the water for a scheduled Scuba Skills Update or register for a specialty that has a pool session like - Perfect Buoyancy or Stress and Rescue.)*

PERFECT BUOYANCY

The Just Add Water Perfect Buoyancy program teaches you the skills and techniques needed to maximize your dive experience, increase your comfort in the water, and get the most from your equipment.

ENRICHED AIR NITROX

The Just Add Water Enriched Air Nitrox program will teach you how to safely dive with enriched air, increasing your no-decompression limits, your safety, and reduce the required length of your surface intervals.

STRESS AND RESCUE

The Just Add Water Stress and Rescue program teaches you the skills and knowledge required to be a good dive buddy by recognizing and dealing with stress, preventing accidents and properly dealing with emergency situations encountered by divers.

GETTING ADDITIONAL PRACTICE

- If you have completed class & pool training and would like to brush-up on your skills, please contact Just Add Water to schedule a time to get back in the pool.
- If it has been more than six months since you completed your class & pool training, it is an industry standard and mandatory that you schedule a *Scuba Skills Update* before being permitted on your Open Water Dives. Another option, instead of a Scuba Skills Update get one step closer to your Master Scuba Diver Rating and take the Perfect Buoyancy Specialty Course. The course will help you find the “Zone” and the perfect the amount of weight that you will need with the equipment that you will be wearing for the Open Water. Your Open Water Dives will be so much more enjoyable because of it.

COMPLETING YOUR OPEN WATER TRAINING DIVES

- Your Open Water Training Dives may be completed in a number of ways:
 - Just Add Water Group Dive Trip
 - Open Water Quarry Weekends (find the 2023 schedule on page 4)
 - Private Open Water Training Dives
- In order to complete your certification, regardless of the option that you choose, you will need to complete 5 Open Water Dives, over a minimum of 2 days.
- Must be a Certified Referral Diver (all class and pool requirements met)
- Payment in full is required at sign up (**\$195+rental**) Please call or stop by to register.
- Space on the dives may be limited, so please reserve your space and any rental equipment needed in advance.
- For students that are 10 & 11 years old, space may be limited because of our strict Student and Instructor ratios.
- Any changes or cancellations must be done at least one week prior. Changes made less than 1 week in advance will incur a \$50.00 change fee.
- Please go through the equipment checklist (pg. 5) to make sure that you have everything that you will need for your dives.

YOU WILL NEED: A TOTAL DIVING SYSTEM

The safest, most comfortable way to learn to dive is in your very own Total Diving System. If you have not purchased your Total Diving System yet please make an appointment so that you can be professionally fitted for your Training Dives and for all of your adventures to come. If you are not ready to purchase your Total Diving System please make your rental reservations at the time you schedule your training dive weekend. You will find Just Add Water’s rental policy on page 3.

JUST ADD WATER RENTAL POLICY

- Please do not wait to make your rental reservations as sizes are limited.
- Rental equipment ***must*** be tried on in advance to reserve your correct sizes.
- Payment in full is due at time of reservation.
- Credit card numbers will be kept on file for lost or damaged equipment.
- Rentals must be returned by 7p.m. (shop closing time) the day after your dives.
- Rentals not returned on time will incur additional daily rental fees.
- A \$15.00 cleaning charge will be applied to gear that is not cleaned and dried before returning.
- Do not put weights in mesh bags. Carry weights separately on either a weight belt or in a weight bag.
- Scuba Cylinders need to be returned to Just Add Water with a minimum of 300 PSI.
 - Any cylinder returning empty will be charged a VCI Fee.
- Rental cancellations made a week prior to the reserved weekend will be refunded as an in-store credit.
- Rental cancellations made less than 72 hours before the dives are non-refundable.
- ***All equipment not purchased or rented from Just Add Water MUST be checked by a Just Add Water technician prior to use in any of our courses. Equipment must be dropped at Just Add Water at least 2 weeks prior to your scheduled dives to allow adequate time for an inspection to take place.**

JUST ADD WATER CLASS CANCELTION AND “NO-SHOW” POLICY

Due to the nature of offsite training and the proximity of our Open Water Site, a lot of planning goes into making sure the weekend runs smooth.

- Any cancelations made less than 1 week before scheduled Open Water Training Dives will be Non-Refundable.
- If needed you may reschedule your dive weekend. Please let us know as soon as possible if you will not be attending your scheduled weekend. Any rescheduling made with less than 72 hours' notice will be subject to a \$50.00 reschedule fee.

PLEASE NOTE: Just Add Water reserves the right to cancel any Open Water Training Dives in advance, due to low registrations, weather related concerns, or other unforeseen circumstances. In the event that Just Add Water makes a cancellation we will make every effort to find a suitable option for rescheduling. Just Add Water is not responsible for any monetary loss related to travel expenses including but not limited to, hotel accommodations, rental vehicles, etc.

2023 OPEN WATER TRAINING DIVE WEEKENDS

(WHITE STAR QUARRY)

June 10-11
June 24-25
July 8-9

Jul 29-30
Dive Fest
(dives are \$215)

Aug 12-13
Aug 26-27
Sept 9-10

Sept 30- Oct 1
Oct 21-22

SATURDAY (DIVES 1, 2 & 3)

Eat a good breakfast and **please be on time.**

Meet up with the Just Add Water group and after the site briefing and sign in, we will set up our equipment and load our weight systems. We will go through a detailed dive briefing... remember to relax and have fun! Also please remember not to put on your exposure system (Wetsuit, Drysuit, Hoods, Boots, Gloves) until you get the okay from your Dive Professional. This will avoid getting overheated.

At the completion of each dive, please refill your tank so that we have a full tank to start the next dive. **IT IS NOT SAFE PRACTICE TO BEGIN A DIVE WITH A PARTIALLY FILLED TANK. JUST ADD WATER REQUIRES ALL DIVERS TO HAVE A FULL TANK BEFORE ENTERING THE WATER.**

While waiting for tank fills, your instructor will assist in you filling out your logbooks recording your bottom time, depth and planned surface interval.

After the dives, there are several options for accommodations if you elect to stay in the area. (Camp grounds and hotels)

Before leaving the park Saturday

- Please confirm with your instructor for the start time on Sunday in case there has been a change.
- Please ensure that your tank is filled for Sunday mornings dive.
- Make sure you have all your equipment before leaving.

SUNDAY (DIVES 4 & 5)

- Start your day with a good breakfast before you arrive at the quarry. Upon arrival we'll begin with planning for dives 4 and 5.
- We'll need to stick around for just a bit after dive 5. You and your instructor will sign some paperwork together – making your certification official!
- **CONGATULATIONS, YOU ARE NOW A CERTIFIED OPEN WATER DIVER!**
- You do not need to fill your tank before returning to Just Add Water.
- Rental gear must be returned to Just Add Water before 7:00pm on Monday.

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- ___ Mask, fins, snorkel and boots (Quarries have a rocky entry - Boots with open-heel adjustable fins **required**)
- ___ Full Wetsuit (minimum thickness 5mm)
- ___ Hood & Gloves (hood and gloves **required** between June-August 1st)
- ___ BCD
- ___ Regulator w/alternate & dive computer
- ___ Weight belt and weights
- ___ Tank
- ___ Logbook & dive tables
- ___ Signal Tube & Whistle
- ___ Cash for quarry diving fees, air fills
- ___ Bathing suit and towel(s)

ALSO RECOMMENDED

- ___ Wetsuit Hanger - so that you can hang them to dry overnight
- ___ Dive knife/ Cutting tools (Cutting tool is required for specialty classes)
- ___ Dry Bag to keep belongings dry - be prepared for all weather!
- ___ Ground cloth or tarp (strongly recommended)
- ___ Lawn Chair

- ___ Snacks or lunch and plenty of water

Don't forget your mouthpieces/signal tube and whistle/pen for logbook and quarry registration



White Star County Park
 901 S Main St
 Gibsonburg, OH 43431
 (419) 637-3483
www.whitestarquarry.com



Note: Motel and restaurant locations approximate. Consult MapQues, Google Map, etc. for precise directions.

Directions

Bypassing Fremont

This way is slightly longer by distance; however, it saves time by bypassing congestion in Fremont.

- Take the Ohio Turnpike west to Exit 81.
- Take OH-51 south 3.4 miles to US-20. Turn right.
- Take US-20 west 1.1 miles to OH-300. Turn left.
- Take OH-300 south 3.3 miles to Gibsonburg.
- Continue on OH-300 another 0.8 miles. The park entrance will be on your left. Proceed to the scuba area in the back of the quarry.

Going Through Fremont

This is the shortest way by distance, and will take you through the closest area to the quarry with motels and restaurants. (Driving time, however, may be longer, due to congestion.)

- Take I-80 west to Exit 91. Go south.
- Continue 2.3 miles on OH-53 to US-6. Turn right.
- Follow the signs for US-20 west.
- After merging on to US-20 west, continue 6.8 miles to OH-600. Turn left.
- Continue 4.6 miles to downtown Gibsonburg. Turn left on to OH-300/South Main Street.
- Continue 0.8 miles south. The park entrance will be on your left. Proceed to the scuba area in the back of the quarry.

Motels

- A Days Inn**
 3701 N State Route 53
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 334-9551
- B Hampton Inn and Suites**
 540 E County Rd 89
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 332-7650
- C Holiday Inn Fremont**
 3422 N State Route 53
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 334-2682
- D Comfort Inn and Suites**
 840 Sean Dr.
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 355-9300
- E Bartlett's Old Orchard**
 2438 W State St
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 332-4307
- F Travelodge**
 1750 Cedar St
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 334-9517
- G Blessings B and B**
 903 Birchard Ave
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 333-7829
- H Hampton Inn**
 540 Sandusky Ave
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 332-7650

Restaurants

- I Double A Motel**
 919 E State St
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 332-6457
- J Great Lakes Motel**
 1737 E State St
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 334-9797
- 1 Four Monk's Restaurant**
 3701 N State Route 53
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 334-8989
- 2 Quiznos Sub**
 3430 N State Route 53
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 355-0212
- 3 Applebee's**
 2200 N State Route 53
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 355-0549
- 4 Burger King**
 2250 N State Route 53
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 332-8463
- 5 Fricker's Restaurant**
 865 Sean Dr
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 333-9464
- 6 Mc Donald's**
 2014 N State Route 53
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 355-9040
- 7 Papa Murphy's Pizza**
 2052 N State Route 53
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 332-7272
- 8 Ryan's Grill**
 2170 N State Route 53
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 355-0081
- 9 Subway**
 2180 Sean Dr
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 332-5233
- 10 Taco Bell**
 870 Sean Dr
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 333-0748
- 11 Denny's**
 1750 Cedar St
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 334-2229
- 12 Arby's**
 1128 W State St
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 334-3682
- 13 East of Chicagoo**
 917 W State St
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 332-8200 - call
- 14 Golden Dragon**
 226 E State St
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 334-8711
- 15 Lee's Chicken**
 322 E State St
 Fremont, OH 43420
 (419) 334-9610

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do we dive in the rain?

A: Yes, we do, be prepared! If there is lightening, we will wait for the storm to pass, then complete our dives (time permitting).

Q: What if I can't clear my ears or don't do well on some of the skills?

A: Some people require more than one weekend to complete all of the skills. Remember, we want you to be a safe and comfortable diver and we are committed to helping you achieve that goal!

Q: Can I bring a spouse or friend?

A: Sure you can! White Star Quarry even has a beach (on the opposite side of the diving area) for swimming. There are plenty of places to stay around the quarry as well.

Q: Where do we get our tanks filled?

A: White Star Quarry has a filling station. The fee is \$10 per tank and you will need to fill your tank after dives 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Q: What are the fees like at the quarry?

A: The fees are \$20 per diver, per day, which is collected by Sandusky County Parks.

Q: How early should I get there?

A: Times will be specified by your instructor. We will do reminder calls the week of the training dives and make sure when you pick up your rental gear on Friday that all students are aware of the starting times. Please make sure you are on time so we can stay on schedule.