



Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I get started?**
 - All you need is interest, excitement and active participation! Visitors are welcome to join us for a personal look at our organization during our open monthly “dry” meetings. These occur once a month, regionally or locally: www.scubanautsintl.org/calendar. If you feel we’re a good fit for you and your family, a membership application form and yearly dues are your next step. If you’ve done *that*, Great! Check out the rest of the docs you’ve received.
- **How old do you have to be to be a member?**
 - Our organization is comprised of young men and women ages 12-18, accompanied by at least one *qualified* adult, who may or may not choose to be a diver. (See New Member Fridge Checklist.)
- **How much does it cost?**
 - Each region has its own annual membership fee based on the cost of diving in your area. Contact a chapter lead or info@scubanautsintl.org to learn what membership dues are in your area. This fee includes membership, one uniform t-shirt and nametag, all meeting materials, CPR, first aid and O2 training, AAUS Scientific Diver training, and attendance to most events, including local dives, cleanups and other service events, special tours and guest speakers. Some overnight trips have additional fees.
- **Do I already have to be a certified diver to join?**
 - No! Anyone may join and participate in many of our activities, but to dive with us, you do need your open water certification, CPR, first aid and O2 certifications and DAN insurance. It is common for individuals to join and attend meetings and other “dry” activities while working toward certification. In addition, we offer a dry membership at half the fees that never require dive certification! However, should you change your mind, you can pay to upgrade to a diver membership at any time.
- **What if I do not own any gear?**
 - You can rent what you need at your local dive shop, however you *do* need to purchase your own safety equipment as dive shops usually do not rent this gear (safety sausage, dive light, etc.). We require proof of annual gear maintenance for safety and AAUS purposes. Our explanatory gear list will help guide you when you are ready to purchase equipment. Plus, experienced Nauts will always share equipment tips!
- **What if I do not have any experience with scientific research?**
 - Not a problem! We are fortunate enough to have scientists who guide us on all of our missions and provide us with training. Before long, you’ll be training the next batch of Nauts!
- **How often will I get to dive?**
 - Dive trips are usually offered 2-3 times per month, depending on boat and captain availability, weather, and Naut interest. Most SCUBAnauts dive an average of once a month. All dives are optional.
- **What training is required?**
 - Safety is our number one concern, and as such, we require quite a bit of initial training for both the Naut and accompanying qualified adult, and we have ongoing training requirements as well. SCUBAnauts does not provide open water certification, but we are happy to recommend a high-quality dive shop near you. Prior to diving with us, divers must pass a diving physical and the AAUS swim test. In addition, you must be CPR, First Aid, and O2 Certified and complete our annual diver training.
- **Which of these elements have costs involved?**
 - Many are already listed, but to recap, there are costs involved with your annual dues, initial certification and DAN insurance, diving physical, initial fingerprinting, annual gear maintenance and occasional uniform costs. Of course the amount you spend on equipment is up to you. Some expenses associated with large trips are covered by the organization through fundraising and grants, but you will be asked to cover the remaining costs of trips similar to scouting, band or other youth group activities. SCUBAnauts also offers scholarships.