



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. Check www.scubanautsintl.org/calendar for the latest details. 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 documents you’ve received, or on our website.
- **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). Because we are entirely volunteer-run, we do ask that at least one parent or other adult be actively engaged in some capacity. It does not have to be diving! Youth aged 11 may attend dry meetings and begin on-boarding as a “non-diving naut” in preparation for full participation beginning on their 12th birthday.
- **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, polo 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.
 - Membership fees cover from Oct 1 through Sept 30 of each year. Members joining in July or August will rollover to the following year. Because most of our diving and other activities happen during the summer (don’t worry, we’re busy all year!), dues paid from Oct through June are not discounted or pro-rated.
- **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 non-diving membership at half the fees that never require dive certification! However, you can pay to upgrade to a diving 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?**
 - We strive to offer dives at least monthly, with more opportunities during warm months. Dive offerings depend on boat and volunteer availability, weather, and Naut interest. 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 or instructor 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 background check (for adults), annual gear maintenance, occasional uniform costs and some dive fees. 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.