

SNI Gear Requirements

SCUBAnauts International Inc. does not possess, maintain or provide any dive equipment. Members are responsible for furnishing their own equipment for all diving activities through purchase or rental. SNI bears no responsibility for members' dive equipment, maintenance, or proper functioning.

At the beginning of each SNI dive, a dive pro or assigned Naut will run through the gear checklist with each diver. If any items are found to be missing, you may not be permitted to dive until the missing item is resolved. It is the responsibility of each individual diver to supply their own gear, in good working order. Divers are encouraged to assemble and test their gear at least one full day prior to any dive. This is the best way to identify and troubleshoot any problems. You should ALWAYS use the checklist when packing.

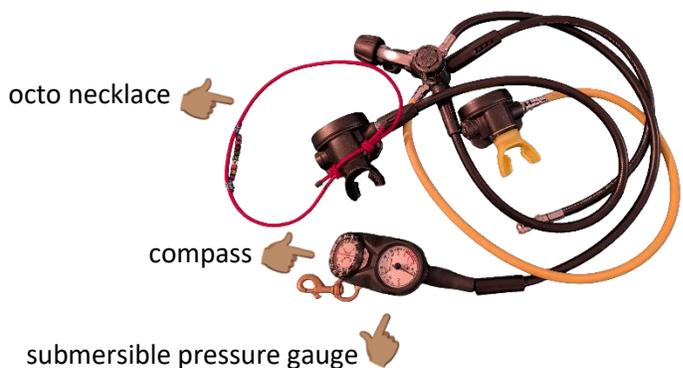
This document is designed to help you shop for the appropriate gear required on all SNI dives, but it is not all-encompassing. You should ALWAYS thoroughly read dive plans for special requirements. Parents, if you are not a diver (and even if you are), take this list to the dive shop with you. The staff there can help you select gear that meets the below criteria.

DO NOT purchase major equipment without consulting your Chapter Leadership as they can make suggestions and ensure what you purchase is appropriate for SNI diving. Most chapters can also refer you to partner shops and instructors who are familiar with our program and may even offer discounts to members. Senior nauts also often have suggestions about what works best for them. Ask around!

LABEL EVERYTHING. Many members utilize the same dive shops and brands, plus most dive gear looks alike. Put. Your. Name. On. Everything. Sharpie works well on hard surfaces, and puffy paint from a craft store works best on soft materials like neoprene wetsuits, BCDs, and weights.

Note: SNI requires service records for tanks, BCDs and regulators to be uploaded in manta. The original purchase receipt serves this purpose in year 1 for new gear. After that, the appropriate form must be completed by the service technician and uploaded by the member. Any second-hand gear requires full service documentation.

Tanks, BCDs and regulators can be rented. Speak to your chapter DSO about how to upload a placeholder in manta to indicate this. Most other items on the list are not typically available to rent and will need to be purchased.



REQUIRED DIVE EQUIPMENT

- Mask
- Snorkel, including a way to attach to your mask
- Scuba fins (and boots if needed with selected fins)
- BCD with standard inflator assembly (no alternate-air combo units permitted).
 - Shop for one with plenty of metal D-rings to clip things to! We don't want all the accessories listed below or your science gear to be dropped or dragging below an otherwise trimmed-out diver! Everything should be accessible but not in the way. It's an art!
- Regulator including:
 - First stage
 - Primary second stage
 - Full "octopus" secondary regulator. **Combined inflator/alternate units are not permitted.**
 - Low-pressure inflator hose
 - Gauge console. This includes instruments like your depth gauge and submersible pressure gauge (SPG).
 - A dive computer is not required, but if you have one, it may be integrated into your console, or it may be wrist-mounted. If you choose to use a computer, **a traditional SPG connected via a high-pressure hose that can be easily monitored by the diver is required**, even if the computer is air-integrated. This ensures a reliable, analog method of monitoring cylinder pressure in the event of electronic failure, signal loss, or computer malfunction.
 - Some consoles may also include your compass. See more under "dive compass" below.
 - Method to securely clip gauges to gear. Shoving it in a pocket or through a strap does not qualify. If you own your regulator, SNI recommends a simple bolt snap. Your Chapter DSO can show you how to effectively tie this on. If you rent, something more readily removable will be needed. Ask your dive shop for options.
 - A regulator bag or at minimum, a small mesh bag is recommended to store and transport your regulator and prevent damage and dangling hoses. Often gear is moved independently of large gear bags, especially during large trips.
- Octo Necklace (This keeps your octopus at the ready for any emergencies that may arise.)
 - There are many ways to secure the alternate regulator in diving. SNI requires all divers to use an octo necklace. This method is secure, standardizes emergency response among our dive team and is compatible with the needs of scientific diving.
- Weights. Small denominations give the most flexibility for fresh vs. salt and various thermal protection.
- Weight belt (only if BCD is not weight-integrated or if belt is used for trim)
- Watch/timing device (**Even if you have a computer, you must have an actual watch also**)
 - This does not mean that you need to go buy a \$3,500 "dive watch." A 30m waterproof watch is available for about \$20 at major retailers.
- Dive compass
 - When purchasing a regulator, a gauge console with a compass is recommended. (It's harder to forget or lose and allows you to monitor depth while navigating.)
 - If you don't own your reg set or already have one without a compass in the console, consider a wrist-mounted or retractable version rather than a console version.

- Surface marker buoy (aka: SMB, safety sausage)
 - 4ft minimum, 6ft recommended
- Dive whistle or horn
- Cutting device (blunt-tip knife, dive scissors, or line cutter)
- Dive slate and pencil. Optional: slate cleaner or magic eraser
- Clips to attach all these accessories. Each of these items needs a secure way to attach to your gear. Get with a buddy from your chapter for some suggestions.
- SNI compliant swimsuit (Sports appropriate. Navy for nauts, black or red for adults. See SNI uniform policy for more detail.)
- SCUBAnauts rash guard (long-sleeved, nylon/Lycra-style shirt with SNI logo).
 - Each naut is provided with one rash guard when they join as a diving member. Rash guards are to be worn *over* the wetsuit if one is worn. This keeps our logo visible and our team readily identifiable at all times.
 - Additional and replacement rash guards, as well as rash guards for adults and non-diving members may be purchased. Contact your chapter president to obtain additional rash guards.
- REUSABLE water bottle

SUGGESTED ITEMS (as needed for specific dives):

- Thermal/abrasion protection.
 - Thermal needs vary by dive location and from diver to diver. Consult your chapter leadership to see what types of dives to expect and guidance on what type of wetsuit may be best. Wetsuits can often be rented.
 - Wetsuits may not be needed for every dive to keep you warm, but many divers prefer to be covered from wrists to ankles to protect against scrapes and stings. This can be achieved with a light wetsuit, Lycra “skin,” or a combination of dive leggings and SNI rash guard.
- Mask defogger
- Sunscreen and hat
- Small dry bag. Offers storage and protection for phones and other valuables. SNI is not responsible for personal items or phones!
- Towel (A chamois is a nice alternative, and it’s dry and ready for your second dive!)
- Athletic headband, gaiter, bandanna, or Lycra swim cap to hold back long hair as desired
- Lightweight sweatshirt or jacket for between and after dives. It gets cold out there some days!
- Save-a-Dive Kit. This is HIGHLY recommended if you will be actively diving with the organization, but this can be something you slowly build your own over time. You can use a wide variety of recycled, non-glass jars or containers to hold your kit. You don’t have to buy something special. This includes spare parts like extra clips, mask strap, fin strap, o-rings, and zip ties.
- Motion sickness medication (non-drowsy variety, list on pre-trip ewaiver and TELL AN ADULT BEFORE TAKING)
 - Trust us on this one. Even if you have never been motion sick or seasick. Be sure to follow proper dosage and use. Notice the directions usually say to take one the night before and one an hour before travel. Taking something once the boat is underway is ineffective.
- 1 Primary light
- 1 Back-up light
 - Do NOT pack or store your dive lights with the batteries in them. Keep them separate, or you will likely find dead batteries or a corroded and destroyed light—or both.