



*Dive Pirates*  
Foundation

*Bringing Adaptive Divers Into The Mainstream Diving Community*

# *Dive Pirates Foundation*

*Bringing Adaptive Divers into Your  
Diving Community with Local Chapters*

*The How-To Guide for Chapters*

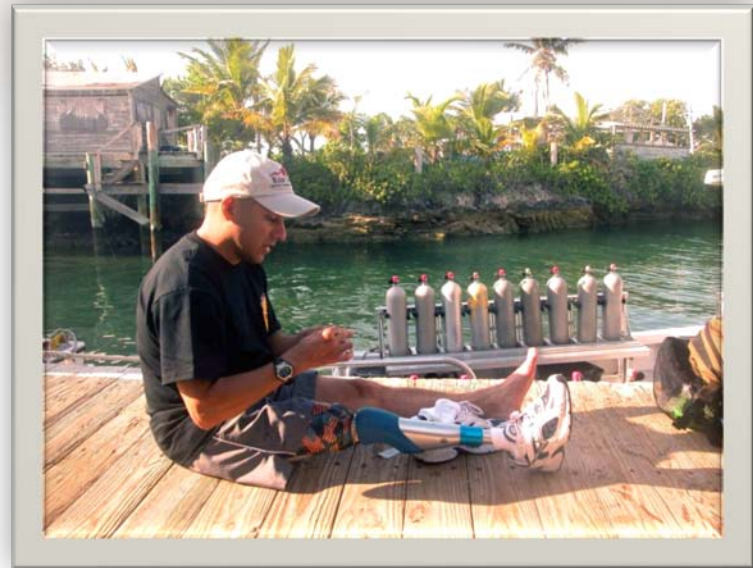


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## *Outline*

- What is the Dive Pirates Foundation?
- How do I form a Chapter?
- How Can I Get Involved?





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*What is the  
Dive Pirates Foundation?*



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## *Description*

- Originally a social club of divers formed in 2003
- Evolved into a 5.01 (c) 3 Charitable Foundation for Adaptive SCUBA
- Began recruiting and focusing on injured military veterans in 2004
- More information: [www.divepirates.org](http://www.divepirates.org)



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## *Our Mission...*



*Based on camaraderie, compassion, freedom to dive, and the Code of Conduct, Dive Pirates will support, train, equip, and provide dive travel to individuals with disabilities through Adaptive Scuba Diving.*



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## *Our Vision...*



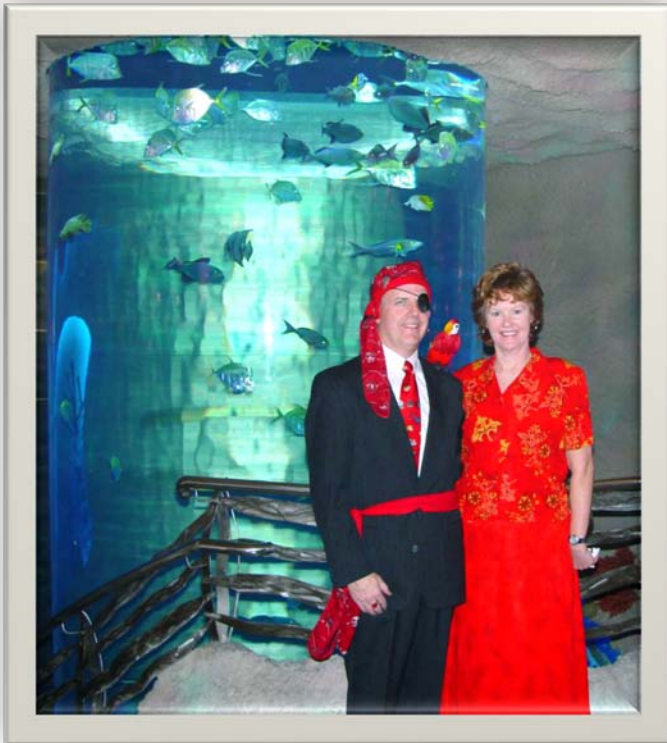
*Dive Pirates will create a community of Adaptive Divers that will dive and travel in the mainstream world of Scuba Diving through education and overcoming obstacles.*



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## *History*



Held first fundraiser at  
Downtown Aquarium in  
Feb 2005 – now an  
annual event held  
every February



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## *History*

Had first trip at Brac Reef Beach Resort in April 2005  
– now our annual destination





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## *What's in a Name?*

- We ARE Divers
- The Caribbean has long been the romantic home of Pirates
- Traditionally, pirate crews would take care of injured crewmembers by making them hooks, peg legs, eye patches, etc.
- Disabled crew members were not banished, but given new tasks that they could perform to contribute to the rest of the crew
- They were given a pre-determined share of the booty.



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## *What we do*

- Raise funds through annual fundraiser, memberships, sponsors and grants.....and now, Chapters
- Recruit injured veterans and others who are medically qualified and physically disabled
- Train and equip them to scuba dive as well as their adaptive buddy (i.e. spouse, sibling, friend, parent)
- Take them on a trip of a lifetime to the Cayman Islands
- Encourage them to continue diving as a lifestyle
  - Continued involvement with the store and local diving



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## *Where does the money go?*

- All Dive Pirates "staff" are volunteers
- Full dive system for recipients and buddies
  - Safety and comfort
  - Injuries require customizations
- Training expenses
  - Instructors donate their time
  - SSI provides books and C-Cards to students
- Travel for one trip to the Caribbean
  - For some divers the safest way to finish training
  - Best experience possible for the recipient
- Takes approx \$3500-\$4000 per recipient



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## *Where we are going*

- Headquartered in The Woodlands, Texas
- Continue to raise funds for needy adaptive divers
  - Especially injured veterans
- Already expanding into new communities
- Working closely with SSI to introduce Chapters
  - Focus on stores looking to work with adaptive divers
  - Target instructors that are trained in adaptive diving
  - Students are assigned to local stores to keep diving
  - Emphasis is on giving back to local communities
- Long term plan is to be a national organization
  - Local chapters throughout the country in every state



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# *How to start a Chapter*



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## *Forming a Chapter*

- Understand the Dive Pirates' Mission and Vision
  - Review the website [www.divepirates.org](http://www.divepirates.org) for information
  - Embrace the philosophy of wanting to give back to society regarding adaptive diving and persons with disabilities
  - Commit to adhere to guidelines established by Dive Pirates
- Need to have an Adaptive Dive Instructor on staff
  - Current SSI trainer is Stacey Minton – New Mexico Scuba Center
  - Educate your staff regarding the philosophy of the foundation
- Find a "champion" in your store not involved in daily operations
- Recruit adaptive divers
  - Local VA Hospitals or physical therapy practices
  - Promote your adaptive training on website and word of mouth
  - Support groups or athletic groups for persons with disabilities
  - Consider having a "Try Scuba" with medical clearances



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## *Forming a Chapter*

- Educate your customer base about Dive Pirates and openly solicit participation for membership, buddies, donations, and sponsors
  - Create awareness about adaptive diving
  - Identify volunteers for training, fundraisers, buddies
  - Camaraderie on trips with acts of piracy or wall of shame
  - “Keep them diving” by supporting local diving activities
- Willingness to raise funds in your community
  - Work through Dive Pirates Foundation to raise funds via 5.01(c)3
  - SSI comps training materials and C cards through ODIN
  - Chapter donates training costs
- Funds go to purchase equipment and annual trip
  - Our philosophy is to support the stores. Funds will find their way back to your store in equipment purchases
- National foundation assists with extra funding for each chapter



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## *How to raise money*

- Host an Event
  - Music for Troops – local bands donate performances, can include silent auctions
  - Golf Tournament or Fun Run
  - Underwater competitions
  - Simple auctions of trips or equipment
- Contact Dive Pirates for local media resources and support
- Best way is to have a non-staff “champion” manage the event
- Other ideas for fundraising include recycling tanks, change for treasure chest, fines for pool infractions (i.e. “six pack rule”)
- Great publicity for your store in giving back to the community, especially for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan
- Promote your affiliation with the Dive Pirates Foundation
  - Hang banner in store and display membership brochures



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*How can I get involved?*



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## *To Become an Adaptive Diver*

- Fill out our Application
  - Requires physician approval
  - Information to size you for your equipment
- Complete home study
  - Complete online training through SSI web site and/or read open-water manual
- Schedule time for academic review with instructor
- Set aside time for pool training with instructor
- Go on the annual trip to Brac Reef Beach Resort
- Commit to training and fundraising
- Purchase divers insurance (DAN or DiveAssure)
  - Responsibility of each student prior to trip



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## *To Become a Member*

- Annual dues from \$50 - \$2,500
- If you wish, you can perform a pirate act
- Get a digital photo of the pirate act (practical joke)
- Pick your pirate name
- Send name and photo into [www.divepirates.org](http://www.divepirates.org) with your donation to Dive Pirates Foundation
- Eligible for booty depending on level of membership
- Picture and act of piracy posted on our website
- Meet like-minded people with a desire to help others



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## *To Become a Volunteer*

- Complete Volunteer Questionnaire on interests
- Contact us via email or phone
- Learn to be an Adaptive Buddy or Instructor
- Organize a fund raiser
- Find sponsors and sources of donations
- Attend fund raisers as support staff
- Participate in training or one of our annual trips by being a paying volunteer – trip is tax deductible
- Everyone is welcome, divers and non-divers

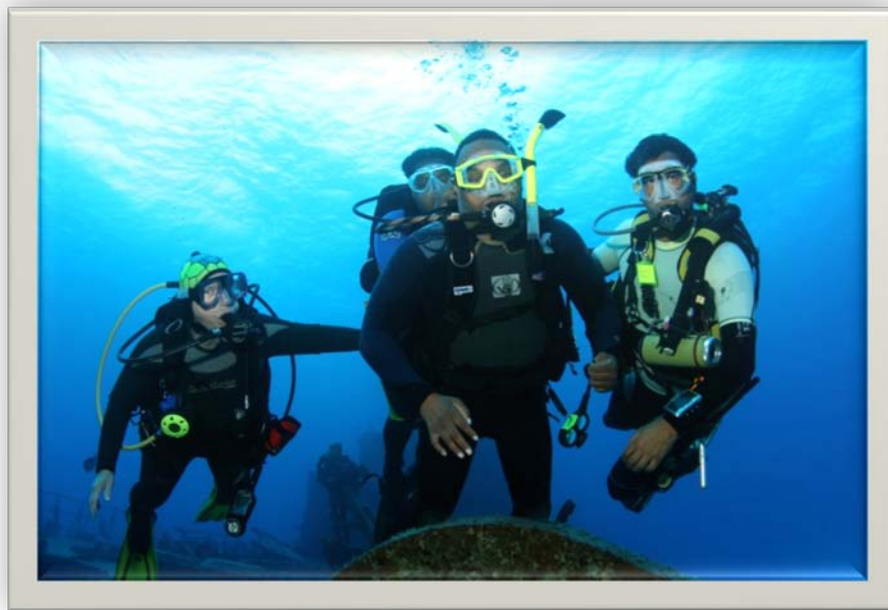


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## *AAAGH and Avast, Matey!*

- Come join us in our diving adventures!
- Create lasting relationships!
- Make a difference in someone's life!





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Find us on Facebook, Twitter or our blog at  
[www.divepirates.org](http://www.divepirates.org)