

Volunteer Dive Program



What is a Volunteer Diver?

- ◆ **Summary:** Volunteer Divers assist in maintaining aquatic exhibits through the use of SCUBA and related equipment. Divers utilize such cleaning tools as brushes, scrub mits, and aqua vacuums. Diving takes place in salt water and freshwater conditions of various temperatures in which appropriate wetsuits will be utilized. In many instances, diving occurs with animals present, therefore, each diver accepts the inherent risks involved with the often unpredictable nature of animals.



Becoming a Volunteer Diver

- Be SCUBA/First Aid/CPR Certified.
- Complete Volunteer application, selection and orientation process.
- Complete a Diver application, medical physical, TB test, Diver orientation, and pass a SCUBA test with a checkout diver.
- Agree to abide by the Zoo's diving policies and all regulations as outlined in the Diving Safety Manual. Diver safety is a priority; therefore Volunteer Divers must be familiar with all safety procedures as specified by the Zoo Dive Safety Committee.
- Maintain a fitness level and an ability to perform work tasks properly.

- Commit to work a regular schedule and be extremely dependable. The Zoo and its aquatic animals are dependent on dive personnel to maintain a high level of care.
- The Zoo will provide mask, snorkel, fins, SCUBA tank or hooka breathing system, weights, BCD, regulator, gauges, and wetsuit when available. If desired or needed, Volunteer divers may provide their own mask, snorkel, fins, weights, and wetsuit. A member of the Dive Safety Committee must first approve use of personal equipment. The Zoo is not responsible for personal equipment lost or damaged.
- Participate in Diver Down Training

Diver Duties

- Properly prepare dive gear.
- Assist in exhibit cleaning (scrubbing, dredging, etc.) during dive time.
- Rinse all dive gear in cleaning solution and fresh water and store properly in appropriate dive locker. Mop or squeegee floor and make sure dive locker is in order.
- Record diving activity at relevant dive area (Waters or Marine Mammals). Divers will be responsible for logging their bottom time and relevant information on the dive board at the appropriate location.
- Report any equipment deficiencies to Lead Diver or Dive Safety Committee member.



Training

- Volunteer in Waters Animal Care to become familiar with area, animals, staff, and procedures.
- Appropriate staff as indicated in the Diving Safety Manual will conduct on-the-job training.
- May be trained to dive in Waters Building or Marine Mammal exhibits. Waters exhibits include Shark, Caribbean Reef, Indo-Pacific Reef and additional exhibits as assigned. Marine Mammal exhibits include Dolphin, Seal/Sea Lion, Walrus and additional exhibits as assigned.



