



MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

Scuba Diving

Scouts BSA · Aquatics

Name

Started

Completed

Scuba Diving opens up a whole new world under the water. You will learn the safety rules divers live by, earn a real diving certification, and discover the animals and places divers get to explore. It takes training and patience, and the view is worth it.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/scuba-diving/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

1 Dive first aid and CPR

Tips for this section: Learn the first aid and CPR basics with a trained instructor, and talk with your counselor about injuries specific to diving.

Example for this section: Practice explaining the first aid for problems divers really face: hypothermia after a long dive, a cut from rocks or coral, or ear pain from not equalizing. Then talk through when an injury needs emergency help and how to get it.

- ☐ **1a** Show you know first aid for illnesses and injuries a diver could face: decompression illness, nitrogen narcosis, squeezes, hyperventilation, hypothermia, dehydration, heat reactions, overexertion, fatigue, motion sickness, aquatic life injuries, and cuts and scrapes

- ☐ **1b** Name the conditions that must be present before you give CPR and explain how to recognize them. Demonstrate correct CPR on a training device your counselor approves

- ☐ **2** Earn the Swimming merit badge before you work on requirements 3 through 6

Tip: Work on the Swimming merit badge first, since strong swimming skills are the foundation for diving.

- ☐ **3** With your counselor, go over every guideline in the Scuba Diver's Code and explain how each one protects a diver

Tip: Talk through each part of the Scuba Diver's Code with your counselor and why it keeps divers safe.

Example: Go through the Scuba Diver's Code one point at a time and give a real example for each, like "Always dive with a buddy: before every dive, we check each other's air, weights, and releases."

- ☐ **4** Get certified as an Open Water Diver through a scuba agency recognized under Scouting America's scuba policy

Tip: Find a certified dive instructor or dive shop that offers youth open water courses, and plan the training with a parent.

- ☐ **5** Explain the meaning of ecosystem, then describe four different underwater ecosystems a diver could visit

Tip: Look at photos or videos of reefs, kelp forests, lakes, and other places divers explore, and note what lives there.

Example: Make a four-panel chart: a coral reef, a kelp forest, a freshwater lake, and a spring or river. For each, list two animals or plants divers might see and one way divers can protect it, like not touching the reef.

- ☐ **6** Learn about three careers in the scuba industry. Choose one and research the education, training, and experience it needs, then talk it over with your counselor and share why it might appeal to you

Tip: Ask your dive instructor or a dive shop owner how they built a career in scuba.

Example: Look into a few scuba-related careers and compare them: what training each needs, where people work, and what a typical day is like. You might ask your instructor how they started.