Dedicated Equipment Specialties

DPV Diving

I. Intent

The SSI DPV Diving program provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to safely and comfortably dive with a diver propulsion vehicle (DPV).

II. Minimum Instructor Rating

An active status DPV Diving Specialty Instructor may conduct the DPV Diving specialty program.

III. Student Prerequisites

- Minimum age | 12 years old.

Have the following SSI certifications or equivalent from a recognized training agency:

- Referral Diver

Note | SSI Referral Divers may enroll in SSI specialty programs and complete all academic and pool/confined water sessions. Open water training dives for all specialties cannot be combined with open water training dives for entry-level programs, and must be conducted after completion of all in-water training for the Open Water Diver program.

IV. Duration

- Recommended hours for completion | 10-15.

V. Minimum Equipment

Students participating in this program must use at least one of the following DPVs:

- Recreational DPV | A DPV that requires two hands to operate, has a less than 500wh battery capacity, or that does not have a tow cord.
- Technical DPV | A DPV that has a tow cord, a battery capacity greater than 500wh, and can be operated with one hand.

The SSI Professional conducting the training must use the same type—recreational or technical—of DPV as their students.

a. Special Equipment

Each student must either own or have access to the special equipment required to complete the program skills. Examples include a dive light, compass, or delayed surface marker buoy. The necessary equipment depends on the specific dive being conducted. This ensures that students can safely perform all required skills and meet the program's performance standards.

VI. Depth Limitations

- Maximum open water depth limit | 30 meters.
- Maximum open water depth limit for 12- to 14-year-olds | 18 meters.

VII. In-Water Ratios

- The student-to-instructor ratio is 4:1.

VIII. Proximity

- During in-water skill evaluations, the students must remain under direct supervision of the SSI Professional so that physical contact can be made at any time.

IX. Requirements For Completion

- Complete all academic sessions and assessments outlined in the instructor manual for DPV Diving.
- Complete the program's final exam.
- Complete at least one (1) pool/confined water session as outlined in the instructor manual for DPV Diving.
- Complete at least two (2) open water training dives as outlined in the instructor manual for DPV Diving.

- Prior to certification, the student must be certified as an SSI Open Water Diver or equivalent.

X. Sequence

- A pool/confined water training session is mandatory prior to any training dives in open water.
- The purpose of this session is to assess the general skill level of the student, and to train them in the use of the specialty equipment prior to any open water training.

XI. Upgrade

To upgrade to a technical DPV, recreational DPV students must:

- Complete at least one (1) pool/confined water session using a technical DPV as outlined in the instructor manual for DPV Diving.
- Complete Open Water Training Dive 2 using a technical DPV as outlined in the instructor manual for DPV Diving.

XII. Certification

- Upon completion of all academic and in-water requirements, the SSI Professional may issue the program's digital certification card.
- The responsible SSI Professional must enter the type of DPV used during training—technical or recreational—and the DPV model into the MySSI System. This information will appear on the diver's certification card.
- Certified SSI divers can dive with an equally- or more-qualified buddy in environments equivalent to their training and within the recommended depth limits of their certifications.
- Students younger than 15 years old will be certified as an SSI Junior Diver in the applicable program, and can dive under the direct supervision of a dive professional, or with a certified adult, in environments equivalent to their training and within the recommended depth limits.