

SOUTH CAICOS, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

WATERFRONT GUIDE

Snorkeling, SCUBA certification, gear, and dive insurance: what is required, what is optional, and what it costs.



REQUIRED

EVERYONE SNORKELS

Snorkeling is part of the program for everyone. Bring your own gear from home.

OPTIONAL

SCUBA COURSES

Two PADI courses, taught by our Dive Safety Officer.

REQUIRED TO DIVE

DAN INSURANCE

DAN dive accident insurance is required of all divers.

IN THE WATER

Every student at the Center for Marine Resource Studies gets in the water. Snorkeling is part of the program for everyone. SCUBA is optional.

SNORKEL GEAR COMES FROM HOME

All students snorkel, and all students bring their own snorkel gear from home. Because you will be in the water multiple times a week in challenging conditions, visit a local dive shop before departure to confirm fit, function, and comfort. Gear sold as a snorkel pack at a department store will not hold up to field use. The field guide carries the complete packing list.

NO EXTRA COST

No additional course fees apply to students who are only snorkeling.

HOW DIVING WORKS HERE

Every SCUBA course at SFS is overseen by a Dive Safety Officer, a PADI-certified Instructor, assisted by other SFS PADI Instructors and certified Divemasters. Diving happens in small boats, in groups of four to eight students, at sites generally within a mile of the center.

4–8

students per boat group

1 mi

most dive sites within this radius of the center

5–7

dives per summer session

15–20

dives across a semester program

Dive counts are weather permitting.

DIVE SAFETY STANDARDS

We maintain strict procedures, policies, and emergency action plans to uphold high dive safety standards. Divers and snorkelers complete swim and snorkel checks and check-out dives and follow established routines so the learning experience remains controlled, progressive, and manageable. Please expect scheduled activities to change or be canceled in bad weather for everyone's safety.

THE TWO PADI COURSES

OPEN WATER \$550

Your first certification. The fee covers classroom knowledge sessions, training dives, and certification.

SESSIONS Summer 1 and semester sessions only.

SPACES 16 per program, first come, first served.

YOU WILL LEARN

Pressure changes

The physiology of diving

Diving skills and techniques you keep for life

- Complete **five confined dives** in our saltwater pool to master breathing underwater and practice basic SCUBA skills before you go out.
- Complete **four open water training dives** to demonstrate the same skills out in the ocean environment.
- Once certified, you are eligible to continue into the Advanced course during Summer 2, or later in a semester session.

ADVANCED OPEN WATER \$250

For students who already hold an Open Water certification from a recognized organization: PADI, NAUI, CMAS, SDI, or SSI. The fee covers classroom knowledge sessions, training dives, and certification.

SESSIONS Summer 2 and semester sessions only.

PREREQ Open Water certification, ours or another recognized agency's.

YOU WILL LEARN

Advanced buoyancy control

Deep dive planning and management

Night diving

Underwater photography

Additional navigation techniques

- Complete **five knowledge reviews**, each followed by next-day dives to solidify your learning.

YOUR SCUBA GEAR

Divers need their own SCUBA gear. There are two ways to get it: bring gear you already own, or buy a set through SFS. Either way, snorkel gear still comes from home.

BUY A SET THROUGH SFS

\$1,200

Order it on your [Waterfront Questionnaire](#). The set goes home with you, so leave luggage space.

Includes: Buoyancy Compensator Device (BCD) with weight belt · Regulator · Octo retainer · Dive computer with backup battery and O-ring

USE THE GUIDELINES BELOW TO CHOOSE YOUR BCD SIZE

SIZE	XS	S	M	L	XL
LB	99–123	119–154	150–170	170–209	194–240
KG	45–56	54–70	68–77	77–95	88–109

Pick the size that matches your weight, then record it on your [Waterfront Questionnaire](#). If you fall between two sizes, note both and the waterfront staff will fit you on arrival.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

DEADLINE

Complete the Waterfront Questionnaire in your student portal by the due date.

DAN DIVE ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Dive-related injuries and illnesses are extremely rare at SFS, but treatment is expensive. Recompression facilities are available in Providenciales and run \$3,500–\$5,000 USD per treatment. Neither healthcare plans nor the SFS emergency evacuation policy pays for decompression sickness or other diving-related conditions.

The recompression chamber in Turks & Caicos accepts DAN dive accident insurance, so an injured diver has no out-of-pocket expense. Dive Assure and other dive accident insurers are not yet accepted.

ENROLLING, IN THREE STEPS

- 1
- Register [here](#) and include the SFS sponsor number **030697**. Enroll as a DAN Member; the normal membership is sufficient.
- 2
- Use your home address to register; coverage is international regardless.
- 3
- Register for at least the DAN **Master plan**. Some US states only offer more comprehensive plans, so your cost may vary.

Coverage currently \$75 USD per year; cost may vary by state and is subject to change.

OPTIONAL SCUBA COSTS BY SESSION

Snorkeling adds nothing to your program cost.

SESSION	OPEN WATER	ADVANCED	SFS GEAR	DAN	ESTIMATED TOTAL
Semester	\$550	\$250	\$1,200	\$75	\$2,075
Summer 1	\$550	—	\$1,200	\$75	\$1,825
Summer 2	—	\$250	\$1,200	\$75	\$1,525
Summer 1 + 2	\$550	\$250	\$1,200	\$75	\$2,075

All costs in USD and subject to change. Estimated totals assume every optional item.

HOW EACH PIECE IS PAID

- Open Water and SFS gear: online before the program at fieldstudies.org/payment.
- DAN membership and plan: paid directly to DAN.
- Advanced Open Water: cash or card brought with you from home, or paid before the program starts.

South Caicos ATMs do not support large withdrawals, and SFS gear is non-refundable after arrival.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- ☐ Fit and test your snorkel gear at a local dive shop.
- ☒ Complete the Waterfront Questionnaire by the due date.
- ☐ Pay for Open Water and SFS SCUBA gear at fieldstudies.org/payment.
- ☐ Enroll with DAN using sponsor number 030697.
- ☐ Bring cash from home and leave luggage space for gear.