



Preparing for your NOAA Divemaster Class

Students should be prepared for a combination of classroom and topside training, working with divers at the underwater training area, from piers/shore and on small boats. Exposure to the elements and the possibility of getting wet at the dive sites is likely.

No diving gear will be required for this training.

Temperatures and Weather

January/February in Key West:

Temperatures and weather conditions in Key West during the winter are typically very pleasant. The average high temperature in January is 75° F, the average low is 65 F. Wind chill can make it seem much colder at times. Typically, though, you will need your shorts and sunscreen. Average rainfall during January is 2.2”.

May and September in Seattle:

Weather in Seattle is often rainy or overcast. Wind chill can make it seem colder. The clothing you bring must function well in a wide variety of conditions, and should include cooler weather clothing that is lightweight, quick drying, and allows you good freedom of movement. Adequate foul weather shell jacket and pants that repel water are recommended. Adequate footwear to ensure warmth and dryness on dive platforms is recommended.

Average temperatures in September: 47 to 68°F

Average temperatures in May: 45 to 74°F

What to Expect

Schedule

1. As a divemaster student, your [schedule](#) is paired with that of students in the NOAA Diver class so that you can practice acting in a leadership role with them.
2. The daily schedule will be shared with all students and generally begins each day at 0730 and ends around 1800. Some days you will get off earlier and others later.
3. There will be a required night dive the second week of training; class will end at approximately 2100 on that day.
4. Class is scheduled to end at 1630 on the last day of class. Please plan accordingly.



Meals

Short breaks will be provided for lunch during training. Students will need to bring a lunch each day along with healthy snacks and beverages to eat and drink during breaks. Susceptibility to decompression sickness and a student's ability to function during the strenuous activities of this course are affected by hydration. Students should plan to bring a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated during training.

What to Bring

REQUIRED:

1. Bring your own Laptop or tablet.
 - a. NDC will provide electronic course materials for students to access on a [student website](#), and tests will be taken online. There will be a wireless network in the classroom.
2. Wrist watch or other timing device.
3. A cutting device.
4. Government-issued photo identification to access the main security gates of government facilities.
5. Closed-toe shoes are required for all students through-out the training.
6. Uniform of the Day is ODUs or equivalent for NOAA Corps and military; wage mariners and civilian students can wear casual dress.
7. Be prepared to bring lunch, snacks, and beverages every day to class.
8. Dive log book

Recommended items:

- Refillable water bottle
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Raincoat / Foul weather gear
- Headlamp

Checklist:

- Arrange flights
- Arrange vehicle transportation, carpool, or rental car
- Make lodging arrangements
- Pack the above required and recommended items