

The Spring Lake Dive Authorization Course

SCUBA diving in Spring Lake, for any reason, is complicated due to the delicate nature of the environment. Declared a "Critical Habitat" in 1980, Spring Lake is home to eight federally listed species and is governed by the rules and regulations of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. In addition, Spring Lake is registered as an Archaeological site and is protected by the Antiquities Code of Texas. Consequently there are limits to recreational diving in Spring Lake. The ***Spring Lake Dive Authorization Course*** is designed to sensitize divers to the unique environment of Spring Lake and the safety protocols and procedures in place to ensure protection of the environment, cultural resources and diver safety. Upon successful completion of this course, divers are authorized to come back and dive as volunteer divers for the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment.

Course Description

- Course Duration: 1 day, plus time necessary to complete take home modules and assessments (@4 hours).
- The Spring Lake Dive Authorization Course is divided into 4 take home Academic Modules and assessment quizzes that are to be ***completed by each student prior to the class start.***
- Students will meet for one full day at Spring Lake where the assessment quizzes will be reviewed, diving skills will be assessed, a tour of the springs will be given and common volunteer tasks will be demonstrated.
- This course is PASS/FAIL. Students must score at least 70% on each of the assessment quizzes and demonstrate that they are competent divers (good buoyancy control and situational awareness) in order to pass.

Requirements for taking the Spring Lake Authorization Course

- Show proof of a Full Open Water SCUBA Certification through a major Dive Training Agency;
- Be at least 15 years of age at the time of taking the course;
- Show proof of a minimum of 20 logged dives ***beyond*** their training dives;
- Students must provide their own equipment including tanks and weights;
- Pay the Course fee of ***\$230*,*****
- Students must complete and turn in all required paperwork.

*If fees for the course are to be paid thru an organization, the Department, the Lead Supervisor, or the Responsible Organization should make the request.

** Texas State students, faculty and staff receive a 50% discount

Note: Training will usually take place on weekends; however, it can be conducted during the week as well with a minimum of 4 divers.