



Dutch Springs Open Water Weekend Guide



**Dutch Springs | 4733 Hanoverville Road | Bethlehem, PA 18018 |
610-759-2270**

Introduction:

This guide is intended to help diver candidates prepare for weekend certification trips to Dutch Springs, a lake (formerly a cement quarry) in Eastern Pennsylvania that is the largest dive-training center in the northeast. Following the instructions and tips in this guide will help prepare you for the weekend and ease your entire experience. As always, if you have questions, please call us at the store at (203) 883-1235.

**Oceanblue Dive - Store • 108 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT 06901
Oceanblue Divers - Club • P.O. Box 1153, New York, NY 10009
CT: 203.883.1235 • NY: 212.729.4646 • TF: 800.688.3483**



Certification Dives:

Certification dives are conducted on both Saturday and Sunday. We will do a total of four dives (two each day). It is strongly recommended that these dives be conducted over the course of one weekend, and our certification weekends are organized to accomplish that. During the dives you will repeat the skills you learned in the pool, plus do a bit of “touring” of the lake, which has a plethora of underwater sites to explore during your dives. Your instructor will conduct these dives, run through the skills, and take you on an underwater tour during each dive. He/She will brief you before entering the water and review the events of each dive afterwards.

A typical dive certification day schedule:

8:00am: Park entry and gear drop off

9:00am: Initial briefing and gear up

10:00am: Dive 1

11:00am: Dive 1 ends

12:30pm: Briefing and gear up

1:00pm: Dive 2

2:00pm: Dive 2 ends, gear breakdown

These times may shift due to a number of circumstances. **It is critical that people arrive at the lake on time** in order to adhere to this schedule. Please let your instructor know if you are going to be late.

Before you go:

Lodging:

As we start our dives early in the morning on both Saturday and Sunday, it is strongly recommended that you secure lodging for both Friday and Saturday nights. There is also camping at Dutch Springs for those who would like to camp. Camping information is available on their website at **DutchSprings.com**

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The closest hotel to the lake is The View Inn and Suites:

Contact Information:

3191 Highfield Drive

Bethlehem, PA 18020

Phone: 610.865.6300

<http://theviewinnandsuites.com/>

It is advisable to book as much in advance as possible, as hotels do book up (especially The View Inn, which is very popular). Additional nearby hotels may be found on Tripadvisor.

Tickets and Waiver:

Divers must purchase entry tickets for the park (\$40 per day) plus sign a waiver before entering the park. You can do this at Dutch Springs upon arrival, but it is highly advisable to do this in advance on their website which will save a ton of time the first morning and significantly ease your entry into the park.

You need to purchase (1) Saturday ticket and (1) Sunday for each diver. Please note that there are different tickets for adults and minors, so be sure to purchase the correct ones. They do let you purchase weekend passes as well.

There are also tickets and waivers for those spending the day at Dutch Springs but not diving. Be sure you purchase the correct tickets; otherwise you will be delayed getting into the park.

Waivers should not be left for the last minute as they have to be reviewed by staff at Dutch Springs to be approved.

All the information you need is available on Dutch Springs website at the following link:

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<http://www.dutchsprings.com/scuba/new-dutch-springs-divers/>

Waivers:

It is important you fill out the correct waiver on their site. The waiver “tab” is located **at the bottom of the page on the DutchSprings.com site:**

#dutchsprings
Share your splashes and smiles from your day at Dutch!
[Follow us!](#)

Splash for a Cause
Join us in June and a portion of ticket purchases will be donated to local non-profit organizations!
[Get Coupons](#)

Expo Weekend
Join us for our 1st Annual Expo Weekend - June 3 & 4
[Learn More!](#)

[Sign our waiver +](#)

For Diver Candidates

There are two options for waivers for students getting certified, one for adults and one for those under 18. One needs to be filled out for each diver:

Uncertified Scuba Diver In a Class- Adult

Uncertified Scuba Diver In a Class- Under18

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Equipment

The price of your open water dives includes equipment you'll need in addition to your mask, snorkel, fins and boots that you purchase.

Each diver will need to bring and be responsible for their own equipment for the weekend and returning it as soon as possible back to the store after the weekend is over.

Please go to Oceanblue in well before the weekend to get fitted and pick up your equipment - **please do not leave this until the last minute.**

Call the store in advance and allow at least an hour to get this done before the weekend. If you own a wetsuit, that is no problem, but you will need one for the weekend; remember Dutch Springs is cold water and you will need a thick wetsuit (e.g. 7mm), which is part of the gear that we will provide for you.

Your open water dive fee includes the following equipment; make sure you have all of this before you leave the store:

- Wetsuit
- Hood
- Gloves (one left hand, one right hand!)
- BCD
- Weights and weight belt
- Two tanks
- Regulator set, including SPG, depth gauge and compass.

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Additionally you should ensure that you have the following with you:

- Mask
- Defog
- Fins and boots
- Snorkel
- Dive watch or optionally a dive computer (you can rent a dive computer for the weekend if you wish). A waterproof watch is an inexpensive item, which can be purchased from stores such as Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Target, etc. and would be fine for these open water dives. Many watches also say “water resistant” and are rated for depths. Be sure the one you purchase is rated for at least 150 feet/50 meters.
- Bathing suit
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Dive tables and log book; you must calculate your pressure group
- Plenty of fluids/water
- Bring lunch or you can buy lunch at Dutch Springs; there is a small food stand with pizza, subs and soda

Dutch Springs Saturday and Sunday

Please be on time for dives and enter the park no later than 8:00am. Our intention is to finish at a reasonable time on Sunday so we can all get back home as early as possible.

If you have purchased tickets in advance then you can go straight in without waiting in line. There should be Dutch Springs staff at the entrance to direct you.

If you aren't able to get the tickets printed before you leave, you will have to wait in line to complete the transaction. You can also buy the

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tickets and fill out the waivers on site, but that will take additional time.

If you have printed tickets, please arrive at 8:00AM and you can directly enter the park. If you do not have printed tickets, please arrive about 7:00AM to get in line. The ticket office will open at 8:00AM, but it can take as long as an hour to get through the line.

If you have any trouble or are running late, please call or text your instructor. We will try to get diving as soon as everybody is on site and like to start the first dive at 9:00AM. However, please check with your instructor; due to the logistics of the weekend this time might change.

How to find us:

Your instructor will tell you where to meet once you pass through the gates. There are two options:

- The training side which is to the left
- The peninsula side which is to the right

Your instructor will let you know which side to go to; ensure you have your instructor's contact information prior to departing for the weekend. Additionally, there is Dutch Springs staff directing people as they come in, in case you need directions getting to either side.

Rental returns

After the weekend, please return all your equipment back to the store. We ask that you rinse your equipment in warm, fresh water before returning it. We advise you to soak your gear in a tub full of soapy water for about 15 minutes.

You are responsible for the rental equipment - if you brought it from the store you must return it or you will be charged for lost equipment. Your instructor will not be able to carry your gear back to

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the store, as he/she has limited capacity in their vehicle and will be carrying quite a bit of extra equipment to begin with.

Final Thoughts

Learning to dive is exciting and your weekend at Dutch Springs should be part of that! It is natural to have some apprehension before your first dive, but trust in your training and your instructor and you will have a great time!

If you have questions or concerns, please call us at Oceanblue at (203) 883-1235.

Enjoy your open water certification weekend at Dutch Springs, which we lovingly refer to as the “Quar-ibbean”!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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