This course leads to the NAUI Scuba Diver certification. NAUI is the National Association of Underwater Instructors. NAUI, a Red Cross "affiliate" and member of the Council For National Cooperation in Aquatics (CNCA), is one of the oldest scuba certification agencies in the world. NAUI's program is an outgrowth of the original diver training programs of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography and L.A. County in California. Today's NAUI course is more rigorous than those offered by most other certifying agencies, but divers trained in the NAUI program enter the sport well trained and prepared to dive intelligently and safely.

The course consists of three parts: e-Learning, pool training, and open-water training. The e-Learning training consists of eight lectures concerning diving equipment, the diving environment, diving sciences, diving skills and activities, dive planning, problem solving, and use of decompression and dive tables. A comprehensive written exam is given at the end of the course. The pool sessions introduce students to the use of scuba equipment and the skills needed to safely enjoy recreational diving. The open water training transfers the knowledge and skills learned from e-Learning and the pool to the actual open-water environment. Students make five dives during the course of their open-water training.

COSTS: The course fee covers e-Learning and pool training, open-water training, certification and registration costs, textbooks and related materials, dive tables and dive site fees. Students will have some additional costs; although all scuba equipment is provided during the pool sessions, students must provide their own mask, fins, snorkels, and boots. If you already own these, you are ready to go. If not, the equipment is discussed during the first class and students are assisted in finding places to purchase the items. Most students spend between $100 and $195.00 on the gear. All scuba equipment for the open-water training dives is provided except for the wet suit. The scuba equipment must be picked-up and returned to the dive shop by the student. Wet suit rentals are about $35.00 for two days of open-water training. If you already have equipment, or access to equipment, that is fine. The equipment must be modern, safe, and in good repair! Students may rent gear elsewhere on their own, but, once again, it must be up to modern standards and it must be safe.

PREREQUISITES: You must be comfortable in the water, be able to swim, and in good health. A swimming evaluation will be completed on the first day! You will be asked to demonstrate novice level swimming skills using any stoke for 15 continuous stoke cycles, survival swim for 10 min., and swim 50 ft. underwater on a single breath.

You should be healthy. You will be asked to fill out a confidential medical questionnaire on the first day. Most questions can be resolved by consulting with your personal physician. Definite contraindications to diving include congestive lung disease, active asthma (having an attack within the last five years that required medication) most middle ear complications, epilepsy and insulin-controlled diabetes.

Attendance is mandatory at all sessions to be eligible for certification.

For more information or to register, call 814-269-2006.