



Denver Adaptive Divers (DAD)

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Our History

January, 2016, was the start of Denver Divers' work with physically disabled divers. We began by creating a chapter of Dive Pirates, a non-profit organization out of Houston, TX, which provides training, equipment and Scuba diving trips to people with physical disabilities.

Our first fundraiser was held in October, 2016 at which we raised \$19,000. These funds allowed us to host Try Scuba Classes as well as send our first Dive Pirates recipients to Cayman Brac and Hawaii in 2017. In 2018 we held a second fundraising dinner; co-opted with Adaptive Adventures to train and send 5 spinal cord injured divers to Cayman Brac; and teamed with Dive Pirates to send two Multiple Sclerosis divers to Cayman Brac. In 2019 Denver Adaptive Divers alone took 14 recipients--new and returning--to Cayman Brac. We look forward to another full trip May 16-23, 2020.



Upcoming Events

DAD Try Scuba

We host no-cost Try Scuba Classes for people with physical disabilities several times each year. The first three sessions in 2020 will be held on:

January 19, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

February 9, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

March 8, 5:00 -8:00 p.m.

Our Partners

Dive Pirates: A non-profit based in Houston, TX which provides training, equipment and dive trips for persons with physical disabilities. Denver Divers is a Dive Pirates Chapter. We have had four recipients participate in Dive Pirates trips in 2017 and 2018.

Adaptive Adventures: Based in Lakewood, CO, Adaptive Adventures makes recreational opportunities a reality for people with physical disabilities. Our instructors and dive buddies accompanied five spinal cord injury recipients on a trip in May, 2018.

Classified Open Water Dive Classes

DAD has 12 Classified Open Water instructors who have experience training persons with physical disabilities to dive. Depending on the diver's abilities, they can learn to dive with an instructor and one or two dive buddies. We try to train dive buddies who are family members or close friends in the hopes the diver will be able to travel and dive for years to come. We have 18 Classified Dive Buddies.

Equipment

DAD's programs include rental or no-cost equipment packages for the diver and, at times, their designated dive buddies. We work with various vendors to adapt wetsuits to meet the needs of our Classified divers.



Travel

DAD's fundraising is intended to provide a dive trip to our students with physical disabilities. These trips are through our organization, Denver Adaptive Divers.



Hawaii

Recipient Justin and his best friend and dive buddy Travis, traveled to the island of Hawaii with Dive Pirates in September, 2017.

They enjoyed a week of dive certification and Classified Open Water Diving! Here is a video which describes their experiences:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSKepFhghvA>

Cayman Brac

Dive Pirates and DAD have enjoyed trips to Cayman Brac Reef Resorts on Cayman Brac. Reef Divers, a full-service dive operation, provides Scuba, snorkeling and all dive certification programs. Reef Divers are also well-versed in the work with people with physical disabilities. If you don't need special help, Reef Divers will still make your dive trip seamless, invigorating and challenging all at the same time!

Get Involved:

Dive Recipient (Student)

If you, or a family member or friend, with physical disabilities are interested in learning to Scuba dive, please contact John Sherman at JohnSherman@DenverDivers.com

Dive Buddy

If you would like to train to become a Classified Dive Buddy, please contact JohnSherman@DenverDivers.com