

Want to dive at MLML?

- 1) Who are you a student or employee of?
 - a. Are you a graduate student enrolled at MLML?
 - i. Are you already an AAUS scientific diver? → Proceed to “2)”
 - ii. You are not an AAUS scientific diver, but are interested in the course.
→ Proceed to “2)ii ”
 - b. Are you not enrolled as a graduate student at MLML? Did you take the MLML scientific diving class? Are you looking to be a volunteer under a researcher or graduate student at MLML? → Contact the DSO (diana.steller@sjsu.edu) and express your interest.
- 2) Current AAUS scientific diving status is needed to dive at MLML.
 - a. Must have completed a 100 hour AAUS scientific diving course, with a minimum of 12 logged dives. Proceed to step “2)i.”
 - i. Submit a Webdiver application if not already ([Link here](#)) → Proceed to “2)b.”
 - ii. If not, and you want to enroll in one of our scientific diving courses, read our website that details our [fall](#) and [summer](#) courses and their prerequisites.
→ Once you’ve read the website, you can contact DSO Diana Steller if interested in a course (diana.steller@sjsu.edu).
 - b. See your [webdiver](#) to determine if **current** (below are the requirements to be current)
 - i. Current [AAUS Medical](#), without new contraindications(see below), since the exam
 1. Permanent contraindications: COVID, surgery, new major respiratory, immune, or cardiac condition.
 2. Temporary contraindications: Trouble equalizing because of allergies, cold, flu, other seasonal illness, pregnancy.
 - ii. Current Standard/Basic First Aid, CPR, AED, Field Neuro, and Emergency Oxygen Administration (often through Divers Alert Network - DAN).
 - iii. All personal gear (BC, Reg, Computer, Drysuit) must be serviced within the past year. See [website](#) for complete equipment list. Also required: whistle, cutting device
 1. All associated records for gear service and purchase must be in your drive folder.
 2. If the gear is brand new, it must be serviced after its first year.
 3. If you don’t have any of the above gear, reach out to DSO.
 - iv. DAN (Divers Alert Network) diver insurance
 - c. As a new to MLML scientific diver the following will be required
 - i. HazMat training required
 - ii. [MLML Waivers](#)
 - iii. Checkout dive with DSO, or other authorized SCUBA instructor on staff.

*** All records associated with the above requirements must be uploaded to your shared drive record folder. We will create this folder and share it with you. *Please label each file as "LastName_DocumentName_year" e.g. "Steller_DANInsurance_2025"*

*** If any of these are not current, fix it before any and all scientific diving activities.

3) Dive Plan

- a. Is this for a class? Meet with the course Instructor to devise a plan → Proceed to "3)c."
- b. Is this for your thesis?
 - i. Meet with your advisor to discuss your research questions and how diving can help you answer them.
 - ii. Discuss funding for:
 1. Dive gear (tanks & fills, personal dive equipment, research equipment)
 2. Boats ([see MLML rates](#))
 3. Vehicles
- c. PI approval with funding (tanks, boats)
- d. Submit a dive plan on [webdiver](#) that appropriately considers the relevant hazards and mitigations, and emergency procedures.
 - i. The dive plan should include ALL: divers, locations, and activities you will be doing. If there are some locations, divers, activities that you may or may not end up using, please err on the side of including them all. This will allow dive staff to work with you as your research adapts
 1. For example, if your main dive buddy cannot dive that day, you should have other divers listed on the plan as backup, and ready to swap in.
 2. Please be thoughtful of specific hazards to your sites, equipment, seasons, etc, and if unsure please reach out to dive staff so they can help you think through them.
 - ii. see example plan on [website](#)
- e. Set up a meeting with DSO Diana Steller to discuss your plan. Revise and resubmit. Gain approval before proceeding to next step.

4) Scheduling –

- a. Checking the weather
 - i. ALWAYS, but especially fall→spring, check the weather leading up to and right before any dive excursion. Some resources include:
 1. windy (great visuals and good for forecasting if you have premium)
 2. stormsurf (good for forecasting)
 3. marine forecast (good general trends for the next week)
 4. CDIP (detailed but only a short time window)
- b. Calendar requests
 - i. On the MLML Intranet, reserve the necessary resources by submitting calendar requests for the following, with as much advance notice as

possible! (Resources get reserved quickly, and classes always have precedent)

1. Dive (tanks)
2. Boats
3. Vehicles

c. Getting a team of divers ready

- i. Reach out to divers using the mlml-diving-group@sjsu.edu email list, or asking DSO for assistance.
- ii. Are all divers current (check on webdiver “diver list”)? And are they certified to the depth of the planned dive?
- iii. Are all planned locations, divers, and activities outlined in the larger dive plan?
 1. If not, reach out to DSO to update the dive plan and receive approval.

5) Emergency/shore contact on that day (before and after)

- a. Your shore contact should be familiar with your dive plan generally, and specifically the plan for that day including site, divers, number and depth profiles of dives. Ideally they are also familiar with the MLML dive program, and who to contact in the case of an emergency (i.e. 911, DSO, DAN).
- b. Give them as much advanced notice as you can, reach out before AND after diving.

6) Visiting divers

- a. Have your DSO send our DSO a letter of reciprocity to diana.steller@sjsu.edu
- b. Have the dive leader send YOUR DSO a copy of the dive plan.
- c. Fill out a MLML divewaiver

7) Stay current

- a. Log dives in webdiver within 24 hours of dives. Service gear annually. Get your medical as needed.

8) Report any incidents or accidents to the DSO.

- a. incident: something that went awry on a dive and didn’t result in the need for medical assistance, but could have (out of air, uncontrolled ascent, a lost buddy).
- b. accident: the use of first aid, or emergency oxygen, OR higher level medical personnel were called to assist (911, hospital, urgent care, chamber).
- c. It is essential that when incidents and accidents occur, there is an opportunity for discussion, learning, and mitigation for future dives without judgment.