

DIVING WITH A PURPOSE XX

"Restoring Our Oceans, Preserving Our Heritage"

May 31-June 6, 2026

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY, KEY LARGO, FLORIDA

PROGRAM CONTACT: ERIK DENSON (407) 497-4447;

erik.denson@divingwithapurpose.org

Website : www.divingwithapurpose.org

The annual ***Diving With a Purpose*** (DWP) maritime archaeology program is scheduled for one week, Sunday, May 31 - Saturday, June 6, 2026. Each year, we start a waiting list within weeks after each annual announcement. Please do not wait to register, slots are limited. This can be a very rewarding week for those of you who sign up, but before you do, please read Erik Denson's attached summary of his fulfilling experience for an idea of what to expect. Upon completion of the course, you will have achieved the basic requirements for underwater archaeology advocacy and will receive a DWP certificate. If you are a returning participant, you do not have to repeat the required basic introduction academic course taught on the first day of the program, but it is encouraged to refresh your baseline knowledge and meet the other program participants. **The DWP program is a PADI certified specialty! Upon successful completion of DWP you eligible to receive a PADI specialty C-Card (Archeology Survey Diver).**

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- A SCUBA setting
- Learn investigative & research techniques
- Team discovery & analyses
- Hard work with professional people
- Wreck site at 15-30 ft. deep
- Research methods include, but are not limited to, skills and techniques employed in underwater cartography
- Trilateration & offset mapping
- In Situ scaled drawing
- Drafting planimetric site plans

ELIGIBILITY & WHAT YOU NEED

- **Experience: 30 logged dives minimally in which ten (10) must be ocean dives. Also, you must have logged at least six (6) dives in the last year.**
- Dive accident insurance (i.e. DAN)
- Thirst for new underwater experiences
- Appropriate thermal wear for 70° + H₂O
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to make accurate measurements & documentation on land & underwater
- Proficient with the Imperial and Metric measurement system and how to convert from one to the other
- Your own dive gear (less tank & weights)
- **Peak Buoyancy Skills** (verification required if under 50 dives)
- Confidence with long term bottom time dives (60-90 min.)

EXPENSES:

- *Registration Fee - \$200 (All Participants)*
- *New DWP Participants (Includes DWP Manual – soft copy)- \$1300*
- *Returning DWP Participants & Instructor Candidates - \$750*
- *Instructors - \$300*
- *PADI C-Card - \$125*

DWP Maritime Archeology Program includes 2 1/2 days of academics covering underwater archaeological skills, lessons & activities, land and underwater supplies for various archeological tasks and results, 3 days of structured diving plus tanks & weights. Lunch will be provided on the boat on dive days.

REGISTRATION CLOSES APRIL 1, 2026!!

*Registration consists of completing the application and returning it with the course fee. This will be based on a first come, first serve basis. **The DWP fee is due in full with the completed DWP XX registration and a copy of your scuba certification card. No refunds after April 1, 2026 due to pre-program planning cost obligations.** If you cannot participate after registration payment, replacements are acceptable if DWP is notified by May 1, 2026.*



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ACCOMMODATIONS/EXCLUSIONS:

A limited number of rooms will be blocked for DWP Participants at Ocean Pointe Suites for Saturday May 30 - Sunday June 7. One and two-bedroom suites are available. One-bedroom suites contain a master bedroom with a Queen bed and a living room with sleeper. Two-bedroom suites contains a master bedroom with a King bed, two single beds in second bedroom and living room with sleeper. Suites also have separate dining area, fully equipped kitchen, and private balcony. The check-in time is 4:00PM, and check-out time is 11:00AM. Note that Ocean Pointe is located in Tavernier and the dive boat is located in Key Largo approximately 8 miles away.

DWP will not handle room reservations or roommate assignments. Call Ocean Pointe @ 305-853-3000 to reserve and pay for your room. Indicate that you are with Diving With a Purpose when calling.

<https://www.providentresorts.com/ocean-pointe-suites/>

Of course, you are welcome to stay at any hotel of your choice.



Exclusions include: Additional dive equipment, auto rental and airfare.



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Typical Agenda

Sunday, May 31:

- 2:00-4pm Instructor & Instructor Candidate Training Refresher & Session Planning
- 6:00pm: Meet & Greet (History of Diving Museum)

Monday, June 1:

8:00am – 12:30pm- Orientation:

- DWP Overview
- Intro to Maritime Archaeology & Ship Construction
- Wreck Site Orientation
- Peak Buoyancy
- Archaeology Process & Techniques

12:30-1:30pm – Lunch

1:30pm – 5:30 pm - Mock Wreck Site Instruction:

- Archaeology Techniques Hands-on Instruction Outside
 - Group demonstration followed by individual team instruction
- Hands-on Scaled drawing practice

Tuesday, June 2: **Meet at the Dock and register with the charter operator**

- Site Dives:
 - Dive 1: Site Recon
 - Dive 2: Begin Site Documentation of Assigned Section
- Instructor Debrief

Wednesday, June 3: **Meet at the Dock**

- **Group Picture (Wear Your Shirts)**
- Two Site Dives:
 - Continue Site Documentation of Assigned Section
- Instructor Debrief



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Thursday, June 4: 8:00am-5:00pm:

- Team Presentations on Sections (includes break):
- Lunch (on-site)
- Site Map Development:
- Instructor Debrief

Friday, June 5: Meet at the Dock

- Two Site Dives:
 - Complete Site Documentation
- Instructor Debrief

Saturday, June 6: 9:00am-12:00pm:

- Complete Composite Site Map:
- **Graduation!**

Logistics:

- Classroom Sessions: Key Largo Public Library. 101485 Overseas Highway Tradewinds Shopping Plaza, Key Largo, FL 33037. 305-451-2396
- Ocean Pointe Suites at Key Largo: 500 Burton Drive Tavernier Florida 33070. 305-853.3000
- Dive Charter: Rainbow Reef. 522 Caribbean Drive, Key Largo. <https://www.rainbowreef.com/>, 305-451-7171



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DWP Instructors and Instructor Candidates

Spaces for instructors and instructor candidates is limited. All new and returning DWP instructors and instructor candidates must apply to become an instructor or instructor candidate for DWP XX. **Spaces will be allocated to new instructors to gain experience.** Instructors will be notified by DWP administration upon their selection. Instructors will be selected on a first come first serve basis. Previous instructors can participate in the program as non-instructor returning advocates. **All teaching instructors must attend training refresher and planning session.**

Instructor Candidate Eligibility:

- **Experienced Diver**
- Demonstrate good diving skills – **Peak Buoyancy!**
- New Instructor Candidates – Participated in at least two DWP sessions.
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Demonstrate leadership skills and ability to work with teams



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REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION: Registration will take place as a 2-part process.

1- Register and Pay Online:

The following Information will be collected through an online form:

- Identity and Contact
- Registration Type
- Dive Information
- Dive Insurance and Emergency Contact
- Instructor and Instructor Candidate Application

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://forms.gle/FU3urHJt5T255J2r9>

You will receive an email registration confirmation with your acceptance into the program. Once accepted, you will be invoiced for the cost of the program. Payment should be submitted upon receipt of the invoice. Your participation in the program is contingent upon full payment of program fees.

2- UPLOAD, MAIL OR SCAN AND EMAIL FORMS: The following information will need to be submitted by uploading during registration, email or mail to Erik Denson.

- Signed Liability Waiver Release
- Copy of your C Card
- Proof of Dive Insurance

DWP c/o Erik Denson
2514 Ekana Drive, Oviedo, FL 32765
Email: erik.denson@divingwithapurpose.org, Cell: 407-497-4447

**Without these enclosures, we are unable to process your request to participate in DWP XX.
All registrations, documentation and payments should be made by April 1, 2026.**

CANCELLATION POLICY

If DWP XX must be cancelled, participants will be notified and given the following options:

- Keep your registration intact and rollover to the next scheduled opportunity to have the session. Monies will be kept in the DWP treasury and applied to the next session.
- Refund the registration and program fees less any processing charges and remove you from the list of participants for the next session.

INSURANCE

DAN insurance is required for the course. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.



Diving With A Purpose XX

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Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Key Largo, Florida

Liability Waiver and Release (Print & Sign):

I, _____ release Diving With a Purpose (DWP), its officers, trip leaders, committee members, or other members of the organization from any and all liabilities, claims, losses, expenses, injuries, or damages to persons or property which may arise out of, or be connected in any way with, any scheduled or unscheduled dive trip or activity it may offer.

In exchange for being permitted to participate in any activity, I will not institute any action at law or in equity in consideration of any injury or other loss or damage sustained, or that may be sustained, by me as a consequence of my participation in an activity sponsored in full or in part by DWP. My participation in any activity offered by DWP is strictly voluntary.

I understand that DWP and no other member of the organization shall in any way be responsible for the safety of any member, or be responsible for the services of accommodations being offered by other enterprises or persons on all trips and/or activities, scheduled or unscheduled by this organization.

I agree to abide by the by-laws, rules and regulations of DWP. I will abide by safe diving practices and conduct my behavior in a responsible manner. I acknowledge that I have read, understood and will adhere to DWP's harassment policy. The DWP harassment policy can be viewed and downloaded at www.divingwithapurpose.org.

I give permission to be photographed, voice recorded and videotaped during the DWP program. My image and recordings taken during the program will be the property of DWP and may be used in print, DWP's website or social media promoting the program.

This Waiver and Release form will be binding on me and on behalf of my heirs, agents, assigns and legal representatives. I further state that I have carefully read the foregoing Waiver and Release in its entirety. I sign this Waiver and Release knowingly and voluntarily with a full understanding of its content.

Signature: _____ *Parent/Legal Guardian:* _____ *Date:* _____

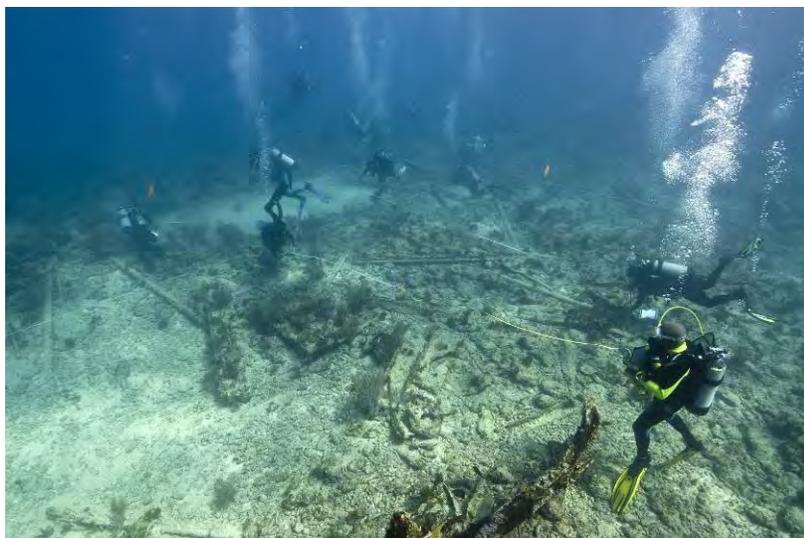
DIVING WITH A PURPOSE TESTAMENT!!!!

By Erik Denson - NABS #254
DIVERSe Orlando

Just like many veteran divers, there comes a time when we look for more. I have been diving for 24+ years now. Diving With a Purpose (DWP) offers a new adventure and a different challenge for veteran divers, maritime archeology. Archeology received fame with Raiders of Lost Ark, Tomb Raider & the Mummy. That was mostly glamour. Archeology is a precise science that requires painstaking patience and precision. The DWP course is an intense week long program that teaches you the basics of underwater archeology. This includes underwater mapping techniques such as trilateration. Trilateration is the method archeologist use to map and measure the various sections of the wreck. During the course, you can spend up to a 1 ½ hours surveying a 6' x 6' section of a site, not moving from that area. This includes fanning the sea floor to expose the wreck and documenting the site using a rulers, tape measures, pencils and slate with Mylar paper. This type of diving is not for everyone. It takes diligence and concentration. Being an engineer, this type of work came naturally. However, the work is very rewarding knowing that you are responsible for preservation and cataloging history. I had no idea that this would be one of the most rewarding dive trips for me. As a diver we should always look for ways to increase our knowledge and thirst for the sport through advance training and specialty diving such as “Diving With a Purpose”.



Erly Thornton In-Situ Drawing



DWP Participants Mapping the Wreck Site

Diving with a Purpose –Restoring Our Oceans, Preserving Our Heritage. DWP is a community-focused nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of submerged heritage resources by providing education, training, certification and field experience to adults and youth in the fields of maritime archaeology and ocean conservation.

DWP XX Wreck Site:

This year, potential sites include unidentified 19th century sailing vessels located inshore of French Reef. These vessels lie in 15-25 feet of water. Artifacts from these sites may include wooden hull remains, capstan, rigging, fittings, windlass, anchors and more.

Documenting the wreck site will assist NOAA in identification of the wreck. Be part of History!



Iron capstan



Windlass



Exposed wooden hull with fastenings



Iron fittings