

Welcome to the Blue Star Diving Recognition Program!

As a member of _____, you are required to complete a few extra tasks each year to ensure that your organization can continue to be recognized by Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary as a Blue Star Diving Operator. These requirements will take approximately 3 hours over the course of the year for your individual effort. We hope that the requirements become second-nature and an integral part of explaining and demonstrating best practices during your normal dive and safety briefings.

What do you need to do?

1. Complete the Online Training

- a. Log on to www.sanctuarybluestar.org/training
- b. You will be asked to select a dive shop. Use the following information:
Dive Shop Name: _____
Dive Shop Password: _____
- c. On the following page, choose the Initial Training (even if you've done it before).
- d. Finally, enter your name and email address so you will be credited for the completion of the online training.
- e. The Blue Star Liaison for your shop has a Continuing Education Tracker sheet. Be sure to write down your name and date you completed the training.

2. Attend a Continuing Education program

There are many opportunities to attend conservation focused local or webinar learning events in the Florida Keys. Over the course of the year, choose at least one that interests you, participate, and pass that knowledge on to your guests and students.

Some suggested, high-quality lectures and trainings are put on by:

- a. REEF
- b. Mote Marine Lab
- c. FIU's Ocean Life Seminar Series
- d. History of Diving Museum
- e. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

3. Conduct an onboard Blue Star Diving briefing during each charter.

Customers who receive dive briefings that meet Blue Star requirements prior to entering the water, caused considerably less reef damage than customers who did not (Krieger & Chadwick, 2012). Conducting the Blue Star dive briefing in its entirety on every charter will help to minimize diver impacts to our delicate sanctuary ecosystems. You are responsible to familiarizing yourself with the briefing and for delivering it during each charter. Blue Star Coordinator(s) will provide a Blue Star dive briefing slate to each vessel participating in the Blue star program.