



# Welcome to the Blue Star Diving Recognition Program!

## *Guide for: Shop Staff and Crew*

As an employee of a Blue Star operator, you are expected to complete a few 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. 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. Contact the Blue Star Liaison at your organization for your site training link.
- b. Notify your organization's Blue Star Liaison of the date that you completed your training for their records.

#### **2. Organize and/or participate in a special Conservation-Related Activity annually**

Examples of this activity include: reef cleanups, mangrove/shoreline cleanups, Goal: Clean Seas Florida Keys cleanups, "REEF" fish counts, Iconic Reef Guardians, participation in 'City Nature Challenge', etc.

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

Conducting the Blue Star dive briefing in its entirety on every charter will help to minimize diver/snorkeler impacts to our delicate sanctuary ecosystems. **You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the briefing and for delivering it during each charter before clients enter the water.** Blue Star Coordinator(s) will provide a Blue Star dive briefing slate to each vessel participating in the Blue star program. For non-diving/snorkeling charters you may provide the [modified](#) Blue Star briefing.

#### **4. Sign Up for the Blue Star Newsletter**

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Blue Star Coordinators send out a monthly newsletter that contains updates on the Blue Star program, training opportunities, and local environmental news. We encourage you to subscribe to the newsletter [here](#).