

North Florida Springs with Smoky Mountain Divers
Gainesville – Williston area in north central Florida

January 24 - 26, 2025

**Advanced Open Water and Specialty Training Students
and Certified Divers are invited!**

LESSON PLAN FOR THE WEEKEND: Advanced Open Water Students will make two dives during the day on Saturday and a night dive Saturday evening. On Sunday morning we will make one more AOW dive. Total four dives for the weekend.

Specialty Students will follow the same format but will have their own briefings appropriate for their specialties. Certified divers are free to plan their own schedule.

FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS: Each person going on the trip will be responsible for making their own room and travel arrangements. There are many hotels to choose from in the Gainesville / Williston area. Meals are available at several nearby restaurants. Approximately 9 hours driving time is required to get to Gainesville from the Tri-Cities.

DIVE SITES: We plan to dive at two commercial springs. Blue Grotto Resort on Saturday, and Devil's Den Spring and Campground on Sunday. Depending on the specialties requested we could go to a different location on Sunday.

The dive sites consist of freshwater springs, and limited ledge or cavern diving for certified divers. The water is crystal clear and a cool 68-72 degrees. A warm jacket could be necessary, and a hooded sweatshirt is nice after the dives during cooler months. A full wetsuit will be required and available for rental.

WAIVERS: As part of going on the trip you will need to fill out the dive shop trip registration sheet, and waivers for the commercial springs. Once you register for the trip we will email you the waivers for the springs. Once filled out, email them back to us at Info@Smokymountaindivers.com

GREAT BOUYANCY MAKES A GREAT DIVE: One thing that helps make a great dive is clear water. Blue Grotto has an excellent video about not stirring up the silt in the spring. Check out their YouTube channel "Dive Blue Grotto" and this video about "Buoyancy Control" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5HOpAH4n7U>

BRING YOUR GEAR: Advanced Open Water and Specialty Students are expected to have their own gear. Check with your instructor to see if you need anything particular for your class. If you do need to rent something (like tanks, etc.) you can do that through Smoky Mtn Divers. Open Water Diver Students have some rental gear included as part of the tuition for their class. **ALL STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO BRING THEIR OWN GEAR TO FLORIDA.**

SCHEDULE: Departure will be at the convenience of your carpool. Make your way to Florida Friday. The group will meet at the Blue Grotto Dive Resort parking lot 8:15AM Saturday January 25, 2025. The GPS address is;

Blue Grotto Dive Resort, 3852 NE 172 Ct, Williston, FL 32696 phone# 352.528.5770

The plan is to get three dives in on Saturday. Before we adjourn for the day, we will confirm our plans for Sunday morning.

We will start home after our last dive on Sunday, about Noon.

ITEMS TO PACK CHECKLIST (AOW / Specialty Students):

Mask, Fins, Snorkel, & Octo Necklace
Full Wetsuit w/ Booties (5mm recommended)
Regulator w/ Octo, SPG, LP Inflator Hose, (Dive Computer if you have one)
BCD w/ L.P. Inflator
2 Tanks and Weights
Diver's Logbook
2 Underwater Lights
Compass
Underwater Slate w/ Pencil

RENTAL GEAR CHECKOUT & RETURN PROCEDURE: The necessary equipment for the trip is listed above. **Each diver will check out their own equipment at Smoky Mountain Divers before your departure to Florida.**

YOU WILL TRANSPORT ALL OF YOUR DIVING EQUIPMENT FOR THE WEEKEND!

If you do not think you will be able to transport your own gear for the trip, we can help you make arrangements for your gear. Give us a call at the shop to discuss.

NOTE: PACK GEAR AND REGULATORS CAREFULLY. DO NOT PLACE WEIGHTS IN DIVE BAGS. WEIGHTS WILL DAMAGE MASKS, GAUGES, COMPUTERS, AND REGULATORS.

RETURNING GEAR: SMD Staff will be available Monday and Tuesday following the Florida Trip from 10:00AM to 6:00PM to **CHECK-IN CLEAN RENTAL EQUIPMENT** for maintenance.

TRIP FEE AND DEPOSITS: Trip fees are listed below. Choose the package that best fits your needs.

- A. AOW & Specialty Diver Training Price = **\$335**
 - a. Open Water Diver Student Package includes: **Admission into Two Springs, Lunch Saturday, Night Dive at BG, Instructor Fees, Two Nitrox Refills for the trip.**
- B. Certified Diver (Non-Training) Price = **\$145**
 - a. Certified Diver (Non-Training) Package includes: **Admission into Two Springs, Lunch Saturday, and Two Air Refills for the trip.**
- C. Nitrox Upgrade for Nitrox Certified Divers (Optional) **\$15**
- D. Non-diver Price = **\$20**
 - a. Non-diver Package includes: **Admission into Two Springs, and Lunch Saturday.**

****** \$50 Deposit Due NOW to confirm we have enough people to make the trip. ******

****** TOTAL TRIP FEE DUE BY FRIDAY, January 17th, 2025 ******

FLORIDA SPRINGS DIVE TRIP

January 24 – 26, 2025

YOU MAY REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP BY COMPLETING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND RETURNING IT TO:

SMOKY MTN. DIVERS, INC. 6635 KINGSPORT HIGHWAY, GRAY, TN 37615
PHONE (423)239-7333. OR E-MAIL: Info@smokymountaindivers.com

_____ NAME		_____ STREET ADDRESS	
_____ CITY		_____ STATE	_____ ZIP CODE
_____ PHONE #		_____ E-MAIL	
_____ EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME & PHONE #		_____ DAN INSURANCE #	

STATEMENT OF RELEASE

I, NOR MY HEIRS WILL HOLD SMOKY MOUNTAIN DIVERS, INC., AND THEIR OWNERS OR OFFICERS, OR ANY OTHER PERSONS INVOLVED IN DIRECTING THIS TRIP RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY THAT I MIGHT INCUR WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THIS TRIP.

SIGNATURE

DATE

IF UNDER 18 PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST SIGN & DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

RENTAL AGREEMENT

ALL RENTAL EQUIPMENT IS DUE BACK AT SMOKY MOUNTAIN DIVERS NO LATER THAN NOON ON TUESDAY FOLLOWING THE TRIP. RETURN ALL WETSUITS CLEAN & DRY. WASH SUITS WITH SOAP & WATER AND HANG TO DRY. **LATE RENTAL EQUIPMENT & DIRTY WETSUIT RETURNS WILL PAY A \$25 SERVICE CHARGE.**

SIGNATURE

DATE