



## SCUBA Classes at Texas State

BY Hailey Horton

Not many people would guess that a school in the middle of Texas would be able to offer classes on SCUBA diving. The Dive Shop San Marcos makes that possible. Located off campus, the Dive Shop allows students to discover the joys of diving and give them skills they can use for the rest of their lives.



**Pictured: Kurtis Cutler & Hailey Horton**  
**Photo BY: Hailey Horton**

Classes allow students to gain 2 hours of elective credit and they meet once a week at the Dive Shop. Classes offered include Beginning SCUBA, Advanced diving, and underwater photography.

Beginning SCUBA allows any student at Texas State to sign up and become a certified diver by the end of the semester. Students learn how to dive safely and gain skills that will help them become efficient divers.

Advanced diving is for students who are already certified, through the beginner class or have been certified by other means. Advanced diving allows students to get their advanced and master diving certifications in the semester-long course. There are opportunities to go to Spring Lake and other bodies of water close to San Marcos.

Additional trips outside of class are planned that students are able to attend, as well.

Underwater Photography teaches students techniques to take pictures underwater. Instructor, Michelle Kraft teaches students how to best capture and edit underwater photos. Students learn how to take pictures of both objects and models in the water during the class.

Additionally, any diving student can check out equipment at any time during their enrollment in the courses.

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### Dive Shop San Marcos

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<https://www.facebook.com/DiveShopSanMarcos>



@diveshopsanmarcos

# Equipment Corner: Underwater Photography



Photo BY: Kraken Sports

In the underwater photography class, this is the main piece of equipment used to take underwater photos. It is an underwater housing for smartphones that fits almost any phone. Partnered with the Dive+ app, it is quite easy to capture and edit underwater photos. The Kraken Underwater Housing is safe to a depth of 80 meters (263 feet), allowing divers to use their own cell phones to take pictures at pretty remarkable depths. The housing costs \$299, or \$399 including a depth sensor and display. There is also detachable macro and

wide angle lenses that can be purchased depending on what will be photographed.

### SO, how does it work, you ask?

The Kraken Underwater Housing pairs with the bluetooth function on cell phones with the Dive+ app. Once the housing is connected to the phone, the phone is placed into the housing with the camera facing outwards.



The housing comes with a pump that vacuum seals the case with the phone inside. Once the light on the case turns green, it is safe to take into the water.



Photo BY: Kraken Sports

The shutter on the device allows pictures to be taken—and the buttons on the right side allow divers to preview photos, take videos, see the menu/options, etc.



Pictured: Hailey Horton  
Photo BY: Kurtis Cutler

Using the underwater housing is easy to pick up on quickly. As long as the app pairs correctly with the phone inside (through the Dive+ app, NOT through the settings), it will be easy to capture pictures and can easily change settings as the diver is underwater.

## Colors, Colors, Why are You so Blue?

Taking underwater photos means that there is water between the camera and the subject, what does this mean for the photos? They have a blue/green hue to them! Color correcting photos is essential in underwater photography, which can easily be achieved with a color correcting app/software. The Dive+ app has a color correcting function which can easily be used to color correct underwater photos and videos. The picture on the top is before the photo was color corrected, the picture on the bottom is after it was color corrected—huge difference!



Pictured: Cat Morrice  
Photo BY: AJ Martinez



## Meet the Head Instructor: Michelle Kraft



Photo BY: Michelle Kraft

Head instructor and new owner of Dive Shop San Marcos, Michelle Kraft, has had a passion for diving for quite some time. She wants to use her knowledge of diving to better the Texas State community.

"As soon as I became a certified diver, I knew that I wanted to do it all the time," Kraft said. "My passion for diving has taken me all over the world, and I hope to help Texas State students do the same."

Being an instructor at the Dive Shop San Marcos was a no brainer for Kraft, as she has been diving for 27 years. She lives and breathes all things SCUBA, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

As a Texas State graduate herself, she explained how she wished SCUBA classes like the ones she teaches were offered when she was in college. This is a big reason why she does what she does and spends so much time with students.

**“ Diving feels right, like it's where I belong. I want to help others feel the same way. ”**



Photo BY: Michelle Kraft

Michelle hopes to help spark a lifelong love for diving in every student she instructs. Her favorite part of her job is taking students to places they have never been and "slapping a mask and tank on them."

Her vast knowledge of diving has allowed her to see so many beautiful things and places. She says her favorite place she has been diving is Roatan and the coolest thing she has ever seen is 2 octopuses fighting one another.

"It's pretty crazy what you can see underwater, it's a part of the world that not many people get to see. That fact alone makes me want to see it all the time."

You can catch Michelle in her mermaid tail at Dive Shop San Marcos at almost any time, even when it's cold outside!

### Spotlight: Dive Shop Doggy!



**Slick, the dive shop doggy, is always at the shop to greet students and keep them company. Although he mostly lives in a SCUBA shop, he is not too fond of the water...but he does have a shark fin that gets put on him against his will on the occasion!**



# Student Photos of the Month



**Pictured: Hailey Horton  
Photo BY: Cat Morrice**



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