

Jay V. Haigler

PADI Scuba Instructor



Jay received his initial Open Water training in 2005 through the Underwater Adventure Seekers (UAS) (www.uasdivers.org), the founding club of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) (www.nabsdivers.org). Mr. Haigler became an Open Water Scuba Instructor in 2010. He continued his dive education by becoming certified as a Master Scuba Diver Trainer by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). He has also become a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Scientific Diver. The purpose of the NOAA Diving Program is to train, certify and equip scientists, engineers and technicians to perform a variety of underwater tasks in support of NOAA missions.

Recently, Jay was named the Diving Safety Officer for the Scientific Diving Program of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers Foundation. Having developed a strong interest in underwater archaeology, he immersed himself in a program called Diving With a Purpose (DWP) (www.divingwithapurpose.org). Diving With a Purpose (DWP) is a volunteer underwater archaeology program which began under a partnership with the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) and the National Park Service (NPS) in Biscayne National Park located in Homestead, Florida. DWP performs extensive underwater archaeological documentation of shipwrecks; surveys their condition; and develops detailed maps of the wreck sites. In 2009, The United States Department of Interior awarded DWP with the "Take Pride In America National Award" in the Public Private Partnership category.

Jay has become a lead instructor with the program. A graduate of the Catholic University of America, with a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering, Jay enjoys the technical aspects of underwater archaeology, but his passion for teaching has paid dividends for many curious but reluctant prospects. Jay invests countless hours mentoring, training and honing the skills of new divers. As these men and women gain confidence in the water, Jay channels their enthusiasm and encourages their exploration of such meaningful diving pursuits as DWP and Youth DWP.



Jay is currently a director with Diving With a Purpose (DWP). DWP is a core institutional partner in the Slave Wrecks Project (SWP).