NAUI vs PADI

Both these two diving certification institutions are the most notable in the United States, choosing between the two can be difficult, because of this Streamline Diving can certify PADI courses also. However, generally speaking, the agencies are very similar.

1. Business Structure. While PADI is a standard for-profit business, NAUI is the oldest non-profit certification organization.

2. Naming Principles. Both agencies offer a variety of certifications for different level divers, including introductory diving, open water diving, and free diving. However, the two agencies do use different names to refer to similar training. For example, their basic training programs are known as "Open water" at PADI vs. "Open Water SCUBA diver" at NAUI. Within these courses, and others, the practical functions of diving are similar.

3. Life-saving Skills. There are a few skills that one agency focuses on while the other does not. For example, the main difference between the certifications at the basic stage is that NAUI will train its divers the basic skills of saving an unconscious diver but PADI does not. For these reasons, the United States Navy uses NAUI certification. This may prompt some new divers to opt for this agency instead of PADI.

4. Certification Timeline. With PADI, you get certified as soon as you complete all the required skills in the program. However, with NAUI, you first have to complete the skills. Next, your trainer has to be satisfied that you are ready for the water before they will officially certify you.

Otherwise, both agencies are major institutions within the SCUBA diving industry. When considering NAUI vs PADI, remember that both agencies offer unique opportunities to divers, support ocean conservation and provide resources to divers of all levels all across the globe. Remember that, ultimately, no matter which certification agency you choose, you will be qualified to dive on SCUBA.