



PADI SEAL TEAM PROGRAM

Teaching today's youth tomorrow's skills

■ "Mom! Dad! Guess what we learned today?"

Is it actually possible to hear your child talk about learning with excitement and enthusiasm? According to PADI Seal Team Leader Lynn Wickline, it is.

Wickline, owner of Aquatic Realm Scuba Center in Centerville, Ohio, is one of many PADI instructors now offering the new PADI Seal Team Program – and these words are exactly what she hears from her Seal Team divers each time they surface from an AquaMission.

A new, pool-only program, the PADI Seal Team was developed for kids ages 8 and older. Consisting of 15 AquaMissions, the program lets kids experience the fun and thrill of diving, while teaching them real-world applications in science, physics, math, biology and more.

When was the last time your child learned physics in karate or gymnastics class – let alone had fun doing it?

Eager students join Wickline regularly to dive into their next adventure. While honing their dive skills, PADI Seal Team members also develop essential life skills, including problem-solving and understanding the

importance of planning and teamwork.

Wickline has had the opportunity to witness the benefits of the PADI Seal Team program firsthand.

"During an AquaMission, one of the divers had problems clearing her ears and had to remain in the shallow end of the pool," Wickline said. "Even though she couldn't join the rest of the team, the other divers kept swimming to her and including her in the AquaMission. No one told them to do that.

AquaMission: Wreck Specialist

■ Coins, jewels, broken pottery, a camera and a compass. No, this isn't a plot for a Clive Cussler novel. It's an AquaMission – a PADI Seal Team AquaMission.

A few weeks ago, five young divers arrived at AquaMission Headquarters to meet with PADI Seal Team Leader Lynn Wickline for a briefing on the Wreck Specialist AquaMission.

As the briefing began, the young divers turned to the appropriate section in their PADI Seal Team AquaMission Activity Books to learn why it's important to preserve wrecks and not to touch or remove artifacts, as well as how to safely navigate and record wreck data for later use.

Once the briefing was completed, Wickline made the team assignments: two divers to measure and draw the wreck, another two divers to identify and record artifacts and the



They acted beautifully as a team by helping one of their members and making sure she stayed involved."

Participating in PADI Seal Team AquaMissions boosts students' self esteem, provides a sense of personal achievement, develops character and encourages them to stretch their imaginations through fun and unique learning experiences designed just for them.

So grab your kids, nieces, nephews or

even the kid next door and sign them up for PADI Seal Team duty. It's the most fun your child will ever have learning.

Students are not the only ones who benefit from the PADI Seal Team experience. Wickline says the program also will encourage instructors to devote more energy to teaching young divers.

To learn more about the PADI Seal Team program, contact your local PADI Dive Center or Resort, or visit www.padis Seal Team.com.

fifth diver to photograph the finds for later use.

Following an equipment check, the divers descended down a line and got to work. For 30 minutes, team members measured, recorded, photographed and studied the "wreck," which consisted of a plastic pipe mockup in a pool.

At the surface, team members broke down their equipment and worked together to reconstruct the wreck. Based on its findings, the team was able to identify areas of the wreck, including the galley, engine room and head. And once team members completed the AquaMission: Wreck Specialist questions and logged the dive in their PADI Seal Team AquaMission Logbooks, they were ready to move on to their next mission — pizza.

WRECK NEWS

World War II wreck found in Micronesia

■ The wreckage of the only U.S. naval ship to be sunk by a manned Japanese suicide torpedo during World War II was discovered recently in Ulithi Lagoon.

The navy oiler USS *Mississinewa* went down after a Japanese kaiten (manned suicide torpedo) caused severe damage on Nov. 20, 1944. The attack killed 50 crew members and injured 92 others.

Following the same basic principle as a kamikaze pilot, the kaiten were essentially hollowed out torpedoes equipped with crude controls operated by a single occupant. U.S. officials believe that the Japanese launched a total of five kaiten from two submarines on the same night, but the *Mississinewa* was the only target that was hit.

Japanese and American dive teams had spent years searching for the wreck. The lagoon where it was found is about 100 miles northeast of Yap.

Like many other WWII wrecks throughout the Pacific, the *Mississinewa* may be destined to become a dive attraction, but the vessel is currently off limits in consideration of its status as a U.S. Navy gravesite.

Sub hunters discover deep ancient wreck

■ Instead of finding the missing submarine that they were searching for in the Mediterranean Sea, officials with a Maryland-based firm discovered what appears to be the deepest ancient shipwreck ever found.

The officials with the deep ocean exploration firm Nauticos Corp. say they located a 2,000-year-old Greek vessel resting on what is known as the Herodotus Abyssal Plain at a depth of more than 9,000 feet. The company was using sonar to search for the *Dakar*, an Israeli sub that vanished on its maiden voyage 30 years ago, when the discovery of the ancient ship was made.

If the estimates are correct, the Greek vessel was plying the waters of the Mediterranean between the reigns of Alexander the Great and Cleopatra.