



## Get the Competitive Edge: Earn the PADI Elite Instructor Award

Are you a PADI Instructor who is actively training and certifying divers? If so, distinguish yourself by earning the **PADI Elite Instructor Award**. This program recognizes PADI Instructors like you for reaching specific milestones based on the number of certifications you issue annually, providing you with the opportunity to tout your “Elite Instructor” status to student divers, potential customers, prospective employers and your fellow PADI Professionals! **Additionally, you’ll get an “Elite Instructor” decal to affix to your PADI Instructor certification card and an “Elite Instructor” e-badge for all your electronic communications.**

### Program Summary

PADI Instructors who issue **50, 100, 150, 200 or 300 qualifying certifications** in a calendar year and who have no verified Quality Management violations within 12 months of the date of the award, will be recognized with the Elite Instructor Award.

- **Qualifying certifications:** (Certifications issued by you which will included in your tally)
  - Qualifying student diver certifications include Scuba Diver, Open Water Diver, Advanced Open Water Diver, Rescue Diver, Master Scuba Diver and all student diver specialties including distinctive specialties. Junior diver certifications will be weighted on a one-to-one basis as well as Basic Freediver, Freediver, Advanced Freediver and Master Freediver.
  - Qualifying PADI Professional ratings include Divemaster, Assistant Instructor, Open Water Scuba Instructor, Master Scuba Diver Trainer, IDC Staff Instructor, Emergency First Response Instructor and all Instructor Specialty and Distinctive Instructor Specialty ratings. Freediver Instructor, Advanced Freediver Instructor, Master Freediver Instructor and Freediver Instructor Trainer will also be included and weighted on a one-to-one basis.
  - Emergency First Response Participant programs, ReActivate, Discover Scuba Diving experiences, Bubblemaker, Seal Team, Master Seal Team and Skin

Diver will be weighed on a five-to-one basis. For example, five Discover Scuba Diving experiences will be weighted the same as one Open Water Diver certification.

- Referrals will be counted on a two-to-one basis. If you have referred students to another instructor or business but didn't get the paperwork back from the other party, please submit your completed documents to the certifications department and they will make every effort to see that you get credit for your referrals.

*Elite Instructor Award Program, continued.*

- PADI Instructors achieving "Elite" status will receive a recognition decal to display on their PADI Instructor certification cards along with an e-badge to include on emails, websites, blogs and social media pages. Every recipient will also get a certificate recognizing them for the number of qualifying certifications they issued during that year: 50, 100, 150, 200 or 300.
- PADI Pros in PADI Americas, PADI Canada, PADI Asia Pacific and PADI EMEA with a rating of Open Water Scuba Instructor or above will *automatically* be included in the program and their productivity will be tallied by PADI.
- Certifications issued 1 January through 31 December qualify for the award program each year. **All certifications must be processed by 15 January to count for the award.**
- The Elite Instructor Award qualifying certifications winners are tallied on an annual basis. Awards will be tallied and the winners will be notified during the first quarter of following year.
- Instructors associated with a PADI Dive Center or Resort may authorize the business to display the instructor's Elite Instructor Award on the business's digital site pages.

"Talk about a competitive advantage! Who wouldn't want to display 'Elite Instructor Award' on their PADI Instructor card each year? Or, be a PADI Dive Center or Resort with a roster of PADI Elite Instructors?"

*Mark Spiers  
Vice President  
Training, Sales and Field Services  
PADI EMEA*

**For More Information**

**Will you be a PADI Elite Instructor?** Visit the "My Account" tab and then "Awards" tab at the PADI Pros' Site to see how many certifications you garnered.

If you have questions about your certification counts, please contact the PADI Training Department at +44 117 300 7234. For more information about the Elite Instructor Award program, **please visit the Member Toolbox at the PADI Pros Site** to read a list of frequently asked questions, or email david.protheroe@padi.com.