



Caring for Kids Newsletter

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Caring for Kids scuba trip with Diveheart to the Keys

by Sara Koehnke

This past June, Caring for Kids joined with Diveheart for an exciting expedition in the Florida Keys. Although only a week long, five young divers created close bonds to their instructors. The phenomenal hotel location gave us the opportunity to see jellyfish, dolphins, manatees, iguanas and some small fish before we even began diving.

We spent the first few days reviewing important material and performing basic scuba skills in the pool. Once the basic training was out of the way, we dove right in. Mother Nature tested us; the waves were not always welcoming. One day the weather was so bad that we were given the option to stay ashore, but our enthusiasm pushed us onward and we had an amazing

dive. Each dive site unveiled unusual fish and aquatic life. Along with visiting dive sites, we also swam with dolphins and played with wild sharks. Some of the participants were bold enough to kiss the sharks!

The crazy car rides and the endless late night card game Slap will not be forgotten. Yet aside from all the excitement, the dive trip was a learning experience. Everyone passed their certification test and became certified divers. We proved, yet again, that disabilities do not have to define us. We were a group of young individuals wanting to explore dive sites in Florida. The late

week in June was an exciting experience, but Dion Carr, Mallory Corrus, Matt Trigo, Ariel Cantrell and I can be assured that we are capable of anything. I would highly recommend others to try to come along next June. We certainly made memories to last a lifetime.



The RIC participants; Matt, Mallory, Dion, Sara, & Ariel, RIC Staff Jocee, and Diveheart volunteers

