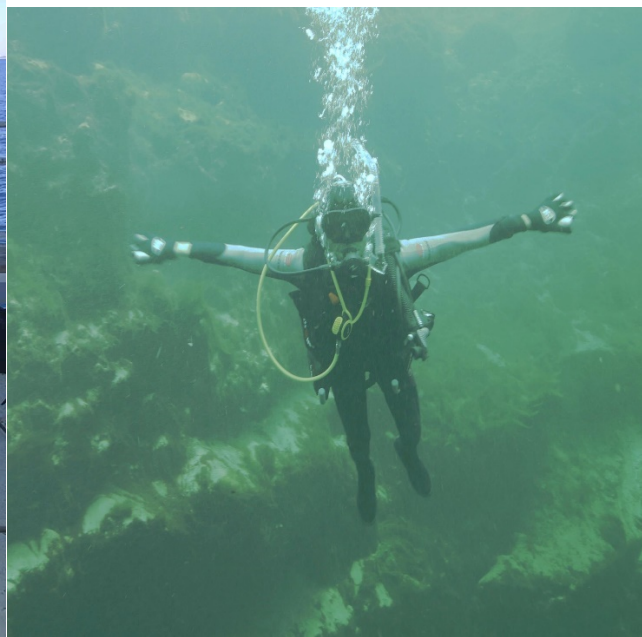


The Ronny Ahmed Live to the Fullest SCUBA Scholarship

SCUBA Diving is a fun recreational outdoor activity that has far ranging physical and mental health benefits for all those who participate in the sport. Learning how to SCUBA dive by completing an open water certification course involves pushing past your comfort zone to learn a new skill. Repeatedly engaging in these types of activities expands your perceived limitations and will help you develop the mental strength and flexibility to handle learning and accomplishing new tasks, which has become especially prized by today's employers. Additionally, SCUBA diving can help enhance or maintain your current fitness level through increased strength, flexibility, and endurance, as well as improve your mental health by training you how to focus and relieve stress. Finally, SCUBA diving has social benefits in that it is a great way to meet new people with common interests as there are various dive clubs available to join. For all of these reasons and more, there is now an opportunity to win a scholarship that covers the full cost of the open water SCUBA certification class offered through Outdoor Excursions at the SRC.

The Ronny Ahmed Live to the Fullest SCUBA Scholarship is named after Ronny Ahmed, an eagle scout, fire-eater and breather, and college student at Florida State University who was tragically paralyzed during a shooting on campus in 2014. Despite the medical injuries suffered during this incident, Ronny never stopped living life to the fullest as he continued his adventurous lifestyle with activities like skydiving and obtaining his open water and advanced open water SCUBA certifications post-injury. Today, Ronny is still jumping out of planes and diving below the ocean's surface, all while completing his undergraduate education with plans to attend graduate school for biomedical engineering.



This scholarship, given out once per quarter, is open to all full-time UCR students and will cover the full cost of the open water SCUBA certification class offered through Outdoor Excursions. To apply for this scholarship, please submit an essay (no more than 1000 words) detailing 1) Why you want to learn to SCUBA dive 2) How you plan to use this certification to continue diving after completing the course 3) any other information you want the evaluators to know regarding why you should get this scholarship (this could include your GPA, a personal history of overcoming obstacles, etc.). There will be one winning essay chosen every quarter from all submissions in that quarter. To apply, please email your essay to joab.corey@ucr.edu with the subject line "SCUBA Scholarship Application" followed by your full name. The Deadline for entries for the Fall 2018 class is October 5th, 2018.