

## GUIDE TO GEAR

The equipment that needs to be provided by the students for D.E.E.P. is called personal gear. Personal gear includes mask, snorkel, and fins. There is a wide range of quality and prices for this equipment. The equipment that you plan to obtain should match your interest in continuing with snorkeling or scuba diving when the project is finished. Obviously it would not be wise to spend a lot of money on gear if you do not plan to use it later. Students who do not wish to invest in personal gear should consider sharing gear with a classmate in another dive group, or borrowing from a family friend.



Price is not necessarily an indication of quality personal gear. Gear is often more expensive in specialty scuba shops, but these shops usually offer excellent advice and have easy exchange policies. **In 2 Deep** ([www.in2deepdiving.com](http://www.in2deepdiving.com)) will be the most familiar with the project. **In 2 Deep** is instrumental in the continuation of the D.E.E.P. program and they would appreciate your business.

**Mask:** The most important feature of a mask is fit, not price. Make sure that it is a full face mask made with soft rubber or silicon with "tempered" glass. It must have an enclosed nose pocket. It should also have a double strap, and adjustable buckles. To test the fit use the sniff test: hold the mask up to your face without the strap around your head; inhale gently through your nose and let go with your hands; if the mask stays on your face, then it probably fits properly.

**Snorkel:** This equipment is much more than the simple curved tube that it used to be. Modern snorkels come in lots of colors and have several innovations that make them much easier to use. I highly recommend that your snorkel have some kind of purge valve system that automatically drains some of the water for you. This is a good piece of equipment to get lots of advice about from the people at the scuba shop.

**Fins:** Scuba fins for the ocean are much different than body surfing or pool fins. Scuba fins are larger, stiffer, and much more powerful. If you do not plan to dive or snorkel in the ocean, then scuba fins will NOT be needed to get you through the project. Because there are no currents in a pool, any type of fins will work for the DEEP program. Most fins require neoprene booties that are worn in the foot pocket. Scuba fins that have an adjustable strap work very well, especially for someone who still has a growing foot. Be sure that you do not buy fins that are too stiff for your size and strength. Several types of scuba fins have come on the market and In 2 Deep can help you sort through all the choices.

**Mesh Gear Bag:** We are requiring an inexpensive drawstring mesh bag to hold your gear. This bag will keep your gear together and apart from all your classmate's gear. This will make it easier for us to move and store the gear, and it will hopefully cut down on lost and found. The bag just needs to be large enough to hold the gear mentioned on this page.

