



BENEATH THE SEA®

Proudly Presents their
DIVING PIONEER FOR 2025

Margo Peyton

Beneath the Sea's Pioneer Awards Program reaches into the fields of underwater research, travel, arts, and community to select an individual who has spent their life diving, achieving recognition, and bringing interest and honor to the underwater diving community. It is the ambition of this category to bring the experienced into contact with the young, so that the past may discover the future and vice versa. This year, Margo Peyton, creator of Kid's Sea Camp - celebrating its 25th anniversary, was an obvious choice.



Twenty-five years ago Margo Peyton founded Kids Sea Camp. Kids Sea Camp, lead her to adding 8,000+ PADI youth diver certifications. Kids Sea Camp programs have introduced thousands of families to the underwater world.

Margo's passion for diving comes from her father, Eddie Salvador, a 1950s-era diver. Growing up in Provincetown, Massachusetts, Margo lived in a diverse marine environment. She recalls conversations with her father about his early diving experiences, and marveling at his homemade equipment. These early exchanges sparked a lifelong fascination with diving. Her father, a captain, and Giant Bluefin Tuna fisherman, bought her first set of dive gear in 1988. Relocating to the Cayman Islands in 1991, she honed her diving skills with Bob Soto's Diving. Margo's real job was as a corporate travel

agent and tour guide.

Margo grew up with her father and grandmother. Her mother, in and out of hospitals for much of Margo's life, remained a significant inspiration. Unable to travel, Margo's mother lived through her daughter's adventures. This only fueled Margo's desire to explore and share the wonders of the underwater world. This deep connection with her mother inspired Margo to pursue a degree in Travel and Tourism. In the process becoming the first in her family to attend college.

When she became a mother, Margo founded Kids Sea Camp. Thus fulfilling a dream of creating a place for families to explore the ocean together. This dedication to youth dive training has earned Margo deserved recognition. **2025 Beneath The Sea Pioneer of the Year Award --2024 International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame Inductee-- 2020 PADI Lifetime Achievement Award (only the second recipient, after Sylvia Earle) -- 2019 Beneath The Sea Diver of The Year Award -- 2018 DEMA Hall of Fame Reaching Out Award -- 2009 Women Divers Hall of Fame Inductee.**

Margo has been a PADI Ambassador since 2017. She is one of few female members of the SCUBAPRO Deep Elite Ambassadors. She is a recognized expert and source for data on youth diving, training and travel. Margo has been a contributor to and featured in many publications such as: Diver Magazine, Working Mother, Departures, Dive Training, The Undersea Journal, Sport Diver, Skin Diver, Scuba Diving, Alert Diver, and many others. Margo and Tom Peyton co-founded Ocean Wishes. A non-profit supporting ocean conservation, training grants, and scholarships. Margo remains a passionate underwater photographer.



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