

SCUBA Divers visit Belize

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Eleven Southwestern Oklahoma State University students and two faculty/staff were part of a study abroad SCUBA program for 10 days in Belize.

During the trip, members had the opportunity to dive many world-renowned dive sites like Esmeralda, Turneffe Atoll and the famous Blue Hole, which is a large sinkhole that plummets 410 feet deep. Divers were able to dive with sea turtles, sharks, rays and numerous beautifully colored fish. They also learned about the barrier reef, different corals and the eco-system.

Each diver was able to log 12 dives during the trip, from depth ranging from 130 feet to 40 feet for an average of one hour each dive.

SWOSU students who made the trip were: Niki Strauch, Wesley Rose and Ashley Lucas, all of Weatherford; Cameron Wolf, Spearman (TX); Monica Michele Julian and Annika Gonzales, both of Burns Flat; Alyssa Sattler, Watonga; William Morse, Sterling; Kyler Butler, Elk City; and Summer Pennington, Cheyenne. Paul and Heather Hummel from SWOSU accompanied the group. Four area residents and two former students at Oklahoma City Community College joined the SWOSU delegation on the Central America trip in June.

While not diving, the group was able to visit the Mayan Ruins, kayak the mangroves, learn about saltwater crocodiles in their sanctuary, go cave tubing, learn to cook, and immerse in the Belizean culture.

For more information about SCUBA opportunities at SWOSU, contact Paul Hummel at 580.774.6015 or paul.hummel@swosu.edu.