

Aria Cross Bio

Aria Cross is the Vice President and a founding board member for Grateful Divers Worldwide, Inc. In this role she plans, leads, and oversees adaptive diving operations. She is responsible for community outreach and collaboration with related non-profit organizations. Aria initiates and supervises diving programs, international dive trips, and trains adaptive dive buddies. Aria ensures diving activities are planned, managed, and conducted in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions, regulations, and approved codes of practice.

Aria has over 19 years of extensive experience as a licensed U.S. Coast Guard Ship Captain with a current 200 Ton Rating. She has served in all levels of maritime leadership positions at South Florida Diving Headquarters (SFDH) in Pompano Beach, Florida. Prior to becoming a Boat Captain, Aria was a Master SCUBA Diver Trainer and Dive Master. She has a solid background in Deep, Nitrox, and specialty SCUBA diving. Aria enjoyed consistent success leading, supervising, and managing personnel during a 23-year career as a Professional Diver and Instructor.

As an Adaptive SCUBA instructor, Aria has trained and certified individuals living with disabilities such as paraplegia, quadriplegia, MS, CP, vision impairment, TBI, amputees, autism, cognitive disabilities, and PTSD in SCUBA Diving. She currently holds membership in the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) and Scuba Diving International (SDI). Aria is a Scubility instructor with extensive knowledge of underwater operations. She has organized and provided technical guidance for over 5000 diving operations and expertly led certified divers at various dive sites, including wrecks and reefs. She is experienced in the safe handling of marine life and is most proud of her ocean conservation efforts while mentoring the adaptive diving community.

Aria is a South Florida native, and her family resides in Hollywood, FL. She is married and has enjoyed raising 2 sons and now spends time with her 2 grandchildren. She holds an Associate of Arts degree in Marine Engineering Management and Emergency Medical Technician from Broward College. Aria is an Emergency First Response (EFR) Instructor and has completed certification as a Master Scuba Diver Trainer. A fun fact about Aria is that she loves to travel internationally and has visited over 50 countries. Her favorite place on earth is Borneo, South East Asia, the third largest island in the world. One word describes Aria- PASSIONATE.