



FULL FACE SNORKELING MASKS

Some students have been bringing their own full-face snorkeling masks (sold under a few brand names, such as Tribord Easybreath). While we understand why these snorkeling masks may be attractive to some snorkelers who are uncomfortable with the standard snorkel & mask combo, we have decided to EXCLUDE the use of these masks in a MarineLab program.

Our experienced staff has determined that these masks are **unsafe** for our program because:

1. In order to call for help, the student has to remove the entire mask, which could result in salt water in the eyes and mouth, which could make the snorkeler even more nervous and anxious.
2. The mask makes it difficult to communicate with their snorkeling buddy.
3. They are unsuitable/unsafe for free diving since they do not allow the snorkeler to equalize, which can cause barotrauma to the ears. Many of our students enjoy free diving.

Any student or chaperone bringing one of these full face masks will be issued with one of our standard masks & snorkel.

Our staff is very experienced at working with unsure or nervous snorkelers, and we have a nearly 100% success rate in turning these snorkelers into confident, eager snorkelers by their last boat trip.

September 2016