

Drifting Sands Aikido Introduction & Tuition Agreement

Our Mission: Create a welcoming community where members learn self-protection; experience self-discovery, and achieve self-mastery through the experience of Aikido.

Our Philosophy: “The strength of our spirit is watered from the sweat of our bodies – and fed from the blood of our demons.” - John Bailey, Senior Instructor, Drifting Sands

Spiritual development grows in this way. Dojo is not the place for showcasing strengths: It is for confronting weaknesses. Dojo is not the place for asserting personal beliefs or opinions: It is for *modifying* those things *inside the self*. Dojo is a place for laughing and smiling as well as sweating...

The Dojo is one path to self-development, and not for everyone. Here, the three aspects of person are cultivated through deliberate and rigorous interaction, including physical training; scholastic challenge; and the strongest drugs known to man: words.

Our Methods: Training includes physical combat (rough physical contact); social conflict resolution (rough social contact); tactical principles (rough mental concepts); interpersonal and intrapersonal communication (sometimes including rough language); and hypnotic practices (not as rough).

Although we do not impose any aspect of training for which an individual feels unprepared, we do not restrict the training environment, the training methods, or the training experiences of others based on the conditions, views, or opinions of any individual. Students do not change the environment: The environment exists for the express purpose of changing the Students.

Your Considerations: We believe that it is important for applicants to review and to consider our Mission; our Philosophy; and our Methods before they make a commitment. Is this the path of challenges you want to make self-discoveries? Please think about this carefully before you step into the shoes of tomorrow.

Realize that as much as you are evaluating our suitability to your personal needs and desires, we are evaluating applicants' suitability to our goals.

Tuition: Dues are \$89 monthly, and entitle students in good standing to attend all classes during the calendar month in which they have paid. Attendance is always subject to etiquette, hygiene, and safety considerations, and students dismissed for such problems are not entitled to refunds of tuition. Our environment is for cultivating honorable and responsible adults who are accountable to their commitments and actions. Accordingly, no student may practice in any class prior to actually paying their dues. Students with financial issues should contact the senior instructor about fellowship opportunities.

Required Equipment: Students are required to obtain a suitable uniform (gi) with belt, a staff (jo), and a sword (bokken). This may be done through the dojo - or from another supplier.

Required Participation: Martial arts training is a commitment. Participation in dojo activities, including pre-class cleaning, after-class cleaning, mat-cleaning parties, and other events is required to maintain membership. Consistent participation in class is required in order to make progress and to maintain membership.