



Lakewood Budo Kai

Jujitsu, Karate, and Women's Self Defense



Dojo Protocol

Dojo Protocol is the formal code of conduct for the martial arts practitioner when interacting with and showing respect to high ranking visitors and guest instructors. The protocol we follow are as ancient as the arts you are studying and are an expression of our interest in upholding traditional Japanese traditions.

Training in the Martial Arts

Lakewood Budo Kai students are fortunate to learn from many high ranking instructors, internationally recognized martial arts experts, and guest instructors. By following proper protocol, we help ensure that our students will continue to benefit by receiving instruction from these high ranking individuals.

When a high ranking person is in class, some of the normal Etiquette and Dojo Courtesy rules are replaced by Dojo Protocol.

Titles

Unless otherwise instructed, listen carefully how the high ranking person is introduced. Pay special attention to the person's title (O'Sensei, Shihan, Professor, etc.). You should use this title when speaking to or about this person. In general, you should not speak to a high ranking person unless they first speak to you or ask you a question.

Common Areas

Please arrive at the dojo prior to the arrival of the high ranking person. If the high ranking person is in a common area, please stand to the side and out of the way. Bow as the high ranking person comes toward you. Please do not take offense if they do not return the bow to you.

Start of Class

Please arrive to the dojo before the highest ranking person or guest instructor arrives. Please also make sure you are in the workout area before them and prior to the start of the class. This shows that you are ready to receive training. Many high ranking martial artists want to maximize their time with us. As a result, ensure you are warmed up (if needed) prior to the start of the class. Please be aware that when a high ranking person is present in the dojo, we may use a different ranking system to line up.



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Gifts

It is appropriate for a high ranking person to receive a gift. Each student should bring a small gift each day that a high ranking person teaches. Alternatively, the students can all contribute to one large gift from the dojo. In general, gifts should be wrapped and left in a centralized area of the dojo. A black belt will make arrangements to transport the gift(s) to the high ranking person's location.

During Class

A high ranking person may start or end class at a time other than the anticipated time. Please be aware that the high ranking person's time should be considered more important than the students'.

If you arrive late to class, please be aware that you may not be permitted to work out. Or, you may be required to perform some activity prior to being permitted to join the group.

It is disrespectful to a high ranking person for a student to leave class before it is concluded. As a result, please make arrangements to be present during the entire length of the training session.

If a high ranking person gives you a comment on your technique, bow to them to thank them for their comment. Then continue working out.

Exiting the Dojo

When exiting the dojo, exit by rank with the high ranking person leaving first. By exiting after the high ranking person, you benefit if the high ranking person has any last comments before leaving the dojo.

Other Considerations

You are not permitted to show anyone else the techniques that you've learned during special sessions taught by the high ranking person.

When in doubt about proper etiquette, dojo courtesy, or protocol, please ask a Lakewood Budo Kai black belt.