

SUMMER KENSHUSEI PROGRAM

Instruction by
Toyoda Sensei Executive Director AAA

Assisted by
Various Guest AAA Instructors

In the Tradition of AAA Founder
SHIHAN FUMIO TOYODA

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Summer Kenshusei Program

The following will offer a brief description of the Aikido Association of America (AAA) Kenshusei program, an intensive training opportunity instituted by Founder Fumio Toyoda Shihan and continued by the Aikido Association of America. If after reviewing the following information you are interested in applying for the program, you will need to contact the Aikido Association of America and review the below listed requirements to see if you wish to pursue this endeavor.

Definition

“Kenshusei” derives from three Japanese words: *“Ken”* which loosely means “to polish” or “to clean;” *“Shu”* which means “mastery;” and *“Sei”* which means “student.” Taken together *“Ken-Shu-Sei”* translates to “a student who strives for mastery through polishing,” or one who seeks to develop in a given art or way through diligent training and persistent effort. “Development can mean many things to many people. The heart of Toyoda Shihan’s individual teaching is spiritual development through realization of the self.

Program Structure & Substance

The Kenshusei program offers traditional shugyo, or martial/spiritual training at the highest level, involving the entire dojo and staff. Prior to entering into martial arts training, though we may have found “normal behavior” and actions to have been suited to our everyday needs, we may have realized the further need for a more centered being, a more focused, unified body; thus we sought out martial arts as a path for personal development. Kenshusei training offers an intensification of this martial process, and it requires the full commitment of the individual student in order for it to be a success. As such, it is firsthand experience in the martial way, or budo. It is a program to cultivate Aikido instructors to become fine examples of the embodiment of the art, both physically and spiritually, which will enrich their lives and contribute to the future of the Aikido society at large.

Under the direction of Toyoda Sensei with the assistance of several other instructors of Tenshinkan dojo and the AAA, students, and resident uchi deshi of Tenshinkan Dojo, Kenshusei students are immersed in traditional training on a one to one basis.

Summer Kenshusei Responsibilities

Applicant must be a regular member holding the rank of 7th Kyu or above and committed to pursuing the rigorous training both inside and outside the dojo as a lifetime study.

Applicant must attend a personal interview with Toyoda Sensei and complete the application form along with an essay on your reasons for applying for the program. Summer Kenshusei must attend every Aikido (and other designated classes), daily for the one-month period at Tenshinkan or if assigned to Ryoshinkan and Soshinkan Dojo. Summer Kenshusei attendance is to be strictly maintained. More than two absences

from weekly class will be cause for probation. More than two classes may be cause for termination from the program. Summer Kenshusei who are going to be absent must show good reason and if possible call or notify Toyoda Sensei ahead of time. If unable to call ahead of time, summer Kenshusei must explain to Toyoda Sensei. During the summer Kenshusei program if there are seminars, camps and or events outside of Tenshinkan Dojo summer Kenshusei are required to travel with Toyoda Sensei to these events/seminars as part of the program. Additional costs for travel and lodging should be considered as part of the summer program. Summer Kenshusei are required to be involved in the work of the dojo, including maintenance, cleaning and security of the dojo. Repairs to the dojo building (Tenshinkan, Ryoshinkan & Soshinkan) are part of this program.

Summer Kenshusei can attend meals cooked by Toyoda Sensei. It is a social event that allows for more informal topics of discussion with Toyoda Sensei and your fellow summer Kenshusei. During the training period you may also assist Toyoda Sensei in cooking the meal for your fellow summer Kenshusei and learn to cook basic Japanese meals sharing in that process throughout the month.

Summer Kenshusei, in addition to the above, may be asked to undergo train beyond what is listed. This is to be accepted and understood without reservation.

Personal Conduct

Summer Kenshusei must become familiar with traditional Japanese customs and rules of etiquette, through observation and outside personal study. Summer Kenshusei are representatives of their dojo and should with conscious effort and pride devote themselves fully to Aikido by not offending or causing trouble for the dojo or their community, nor be involved in suspicious behavior to bring shame to the dojo. Summer Kenshusei are to be in the dojo no later than midnight on any given night. No drinking or relationships are permitted within the dojo.

Fees

The fee for the summer Kenshusei program is \$500.00 per month and must be paid in advance. The tuition is non-refundable; however special circumstances will be considered. Non-payment or late payment will be cause of termination of Summer Kenshusei status and training.

Evaluation, Promotion & Certification

During the course period, promotion tests may be given, depending upon the grade at the beginning of the course and subsequent progress. Upon successful passing of the examination, Instructor certification can be awarded along with Kenshusei certification.

If this program interests you, you are encouraged to apply. It is a tremendous opportunity to build on your Aikido training and move it from a gathering of techniques to a deepening of your art. Please submit all inquires and application form to the AAA HQ, attention Toyoda Sensei.

Summer Kenshusei Application Form

*Please print legibly and return to Aikido Association of America
1016 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657 USA*

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening): _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Previous Aikido or other training experience, if any: _____

Rank(s) Attained: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

ON AN ATTACHED SHEET: Please state your reasons for applying to the Summer Kenshusei Training Program, and what you hope to gain from your participation. An interview with Toyoda Sensei is also required.

I hereby apply to enter into the AAA Summer Kenshusei Training Program. I have read the information pertaining to this program, understand the time and training commitments required by the program, and by my signature attest to my acceptance of these commitments.

Signature: _____ Date: _____