
BLACK BELT LEADERSHIP

GUIDANCE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A Direct Approach To Teaching Leadership

Leadership can be learned by anyone motivated and willing to acquire the skills. The idea that you are born a leader is outdated. Learning leadership can only be accomplished through careful planning and consideration, rather than accident.

What is possible for your students when they learn real leadership skills at your school? Your students will find new opportunities open to them that they might not have had, unless you were committed to their leadership development. Through leadership training, they will learn how to become responsible, participative, compassionate, strong and confident citizen leaders. That should be your goal for them.

Give your students plenty of opportunities to lead, in your martial arts classes and the community

During regular classes, make sure students, who have "raised their hands" to learn leadership, are given the opportunities to test their abilities to lead, with the skills they've acquired. Help the other students develop the belief that they can become leaders as well, effectively building a larger group of students who have "raised their hands." Give these future leaders plenty of opportunities to lead their classes in energy and enthusiasm. You want them to experience and adapt the positive behavior of leaders during their training, both inside and outside your school.

Certain character traits, learned during martial arts training, define a Black Belt leader. These are the same traits of a successful CEO, entrepreneur, physician and martial artist. Your students should learn these traits in your leadership program and use them throughout the rest of their lives.



Character traits for martial arts and life leaders

- Leaders are always learning.
- Leaders manage fear to motivate themselves.
- Leaders are charismatic and liked by others.
- Leaders are highly motivated to succeed.
- Leaders practice visualization on completing their goal.
- Leaders believe in their ability to succeed.
- Leaders do not "worship" heroes.
- Leaders work with their heroes, always learning and training.
- Leaders have a kind heart.
- Leaders learn to control the flow of energy in a situation.
- Leaders project belief and confidence in others.
- Leaders accept their responsibility to do good deeds.
- Leaders harness their power to influence others with respect.
- Leaders have empathy. They understand others' needs.

BLACK BELT LEADERSHIP

GUIDANCE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Obviously, these leadership qualities cannot be learned overnight. They cannot be taught during a single course. Instead, students require years of practice and training to become leaders, just as they train for years to earn their Black Belts.

This being the case, your martial arts school is the perfect place to teach real leadership because there are no seasons and breaks and no slowing and stopping. To become a leader (and a Black Belt) students must train hard, inside and outside their martial arts classes.

This daily training develops your students' abilities to lead in tough situations. Your students will learn skills that cannot be (or are not) taught in a normal school setting. Your school will have an advantage, when it comes to being the authority on leadership education for children and adults. Be certain that your leadership curriculum is strong enough to serve the needs of your students and that you are teaching them real leadership by instilling the character traits and skills of a leader into the inner core of their being.

When they leave your school to pursue other opportunities in their lives, they will forever remember the leadership training you provided. They won't forget their experiences, successes and failures or hard work. These will remain with them, helping them succeed in every future endeavor.

How to teach these leadership characteristics during your martial arts leadership classes

You're probably already teaching your students many of the fundamental leadership traits, such as setting goals, leading class warm-ups and being the fastest, strongest or loudest during class. You provide them with opportunities to rise to the challenge and grow during their training.

Don't stop there, however; ask yourself these questions to help you make your leadership

program a more comprehensive learning experience.

- Are your students able to bridge the gap between the martial arts class and the real world?
- Are they able to apply the lessons that they learned at your school to leadership opportunities in the community?
- Are your students practicing leadership at such a level that your community is beginning to notice their actions?
- Are you students/parents calling your school for more information about classes because of an act of leadership that one of your students performed the week prior?

This is project-based leadership training and action-based leadership. These programs are very real and powerful for your school, as they set the tone for future students, while teaching current students real leadership. These leadership concepts will help you market your school, while giving your students impeccable value.

Your martial arts students are asking for a real leadership education

The best way to give your students a real leadership education is to become an expert at providing them with opportunities to use their leadership skills in the community, lead a team to victory and succeed (or fail) and learn from the process. When you add that experience to the lessons they learn in class, they take a comprehensive skill set from your school to be successful in life.

Help your students create projects that "infect" your community with the positive character traits they've learned in your leadership program, and watch your school grow in the process (and in more ways than just enrollment).