

Leadership



Andrew Gaudoin
Junior Black Belt
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Leadership is a very common term especially in Karate. The dictionary definition for leadership is the ability to lead or an act or instance of leading, guidance or direction. Having leadership is a very important character quality to have in the dojo. Karate is really based on being a leader because you have to be able to teach and help others. There have been many influential leaders in history who have changed this country, led others to greatness or just led a small business.

Karate is a source of many leaders. Funakoshi was a leader because he led a karate revolution by taking karate to Japan. Another leader in Karate history was Grand Master Nagamine because he sent a few of his black belts to America to spread karate further than Asia. These people led karate to be one of the most popular and most widespread styles of martial arts in the world. Though these men were very important, we have influential leaders closer to home.

There are many influential leaders of karate in the U.S. One of them is Sensei Ritter. He learned karate from the best Takayoshi Nagamine and now he runs a school in Mason, Ohio. In this school he has been a leader by influencing his students and educating them in karate and building a passion in them for it. One person was influenced by him and had a passion for karate which later led him to be a leader in karate. That man was my father, Renshi Geoff Gaudoin. He now owns a school in Orlando Florida.

Geoff Gaudoin has been a leader in the world of karate because he took the initiative to follow his dream and fulfill God's plan for him by moving down to Orlando and opening up a karate school. He is a leader because he had determination and perseverance, not giving up because of the economy or people trying to slow him down in not moving forward and spreading karate. In the same way, he is also a leader for Christ because his dojo is based on Him and he incorporates God into his teachings of karate. The dojo has rules and morals that are based of the Word and Christ so in a way he is evangelizing which is what we are here on earth for and he is also doing what he loves, karate.

Leadership plays an important role in a Karatekas life and practice. As a student or an ikkyu like me we have to be leaders and inspire the other new students to like karate and keep on doing it. We also have to teach them and help us practice our leadership skills which could help in our job later on in life. Leadership is very important to karate and in life. If we practice leadership today we can lead others later to become great or to lead them to Christ so they can have eternal life in heaven in the presence of God who created this universe and saved us from our sins so we don't have to be worried about having to be perfect because He has paid that price for sin on the cross.

Here are some ways we can show leadership in the dojo and in life.

- Help others when they are struggling
- Patience
- Be determined and stick to your training
- Don't be afraid to take the lead and start something new
- Take charge and don't let being in the lead get to your head
- As well as being a leader be a servant to others
- Most of all be humble