

武徳殿道場

BUTOKUDEN DOJO

January 1, 2018

Dear Kendo Friends and Senseis:

Happy New Year! I hope 2018 will be a year full of happiness for all of you!

As many of you know, I have been coaching the Portuguese National Team for the past 13 years. Since 2013, I started hosting annual Kendo Gasshukus here at our Dojo. This Gasshuku was originally designed as part of the training for the Portuguese Kendo leaders, mainly national team members and the Dojo Senseis. I have set the objective of this Gasshuku to “Teach the correct Kendo and introduce the leaders with the correct method of teaching.” Since 2014, we have extended the invitation to not only Portuguese Kenshis, but to other countries as well. We have hosted Kenshis from various countries, such as Mexico, Colombia, Aruba, Ecuador, Venezuela, Trinidad & Tobago, Serbia and Portugal.

This year, we will be holding our 6th Annual Butokuden Gasshuku from April 7 to 13, 2018. I would like to extend our invitation to Kenshis across the world interested in participating in this event. This will be beneficial to all participants, by giving each other a chance to practice and grow their friendship with Kenshis around the world.

After the Gasshuku, on Sunday April 15, there will be a Kodansha (higher rank) Dan Promotion Exam, being hosted by the All USA Kendo Federation (AUSKF) for ranks of 5 Dan to 7 Dan. It is planned to be in the Los Angeles Area, so if you are interested in taking the examination after the Gasshuku, please inquire with your country’s Kendo federation president the possibility of testing in the USA.

IMPORTANT (Please note some changes in schedule from the previous years):

- 1) The promotion exam this year will be for the Kodanshas (5 – 7 Dans) only, due to the AUSKF schedule changes. There will be no 4 Dan and under examinations.
- 2) On Sunday April 8, there will be an All USA Junior Kendo Championships at Marina Highschool in Huntington Beach (20 minutes from the Dojo). It will be a great opportunity to go watch a high level Junior tournament. I have planned a day trip to take you there to watch the tournament and cheer for Southern California Kendo Organization (SCKO)! SCKO junior team is the strongest in the USA.
- 3) In previous years, we had Asageiko (Morning practice) on Saturday after the last day of the Gasshuku, but this year there will be no Asageiko on Saturday due to a conflict in schedule.
- 4) If you are staying for the Kodansha exam, you can stay at the Dojo on Saturday evening as well. Also, you can arrive a few days earlier before the Gasshuku to adjust your body condition.

Gasshuku information:

Location: BUTOKUDEN Dojo, 1581 Browning, Irvine, CA 92606 USA

Dates/Schedule (See “2018 Butokuden Gasshuku Schedule” for details):

Arrival Date: Saturday, April 7, 2018

Gasshuku: Saturday, April 7 to Friday, April 13, 2018

Kodansha Dan Promotion Exam: Sunday April 15, 2018

Instructors:

Taro Ariga (Kyoshi 7 Dan) and Butokuden Dojo Senseis

Language: Portuguese, Spanish, English, and Japanese

Participation Fee: Free

Application deadline: **February 28, 2018**

url: www.butokuden.com

Phone: +1.949.756.8880

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Participation requirements:

- 1) Member of an accredited Kendo Organization in your country.
- 2) Authorization from your Country's Kendo Organization leader.
- 3) Participants must participate for the entire Gasshuku.
- 4) The Gasshuku is focused to Kendo leaders or future leaders in your country.
- 5) The training is very rigorous. Participants must be in good health condition to participate.
- 6) Participants must have medical insurance valid in the USA.
- 7) Due to the logistics, a maximum of 3 people from each country (please inquire if more people want to participate).
- 8) The participating Kenshis must be 2 Dan or above from accredited FIK organization

Important information:

- 1) Gasshuku Participation Fee: FREE
- 2) Breakfast and lunch: E-BOGU will provide basic food (Bread, butter, milk, coffee, etc.). In the past, participants made a pool to buy some extra food. There is a Walmart within walking distance. Approximate budget for one week is about \$50/person.
- 3) Most nights, we will go out for dinner. Dinner is to be paid by each participant (Approximately \$15/meal). In the past, Butokuden Dojo members volunteered to cook for the Gasshuku members for some evenings.
- 4) Transportation to the Gasshuku is to be arranged by the participant. If arriving at SNA (Orange County Airport), pickup can be arranged. If arriving in LAX, please let us know as we will try to arrange a ride. If we cannot arrange a ride, you will have to find your own way to the Dojo. See additional information below.
- 5) Participants will have the choice of sleeping in the Dojo or staying at a hotel nearby. We recommend staying at the Dojo because it is more fun!
 - a. Dojo: FREE (bring a sleeping bag, or you can purchase at Walmart for approximately \$25)
 - b. Hotel: there are hotels near the Dojo starting at approximately \$35 to \$50/night per person (double occupancy). About 10 minutes walking distance from the Dojo.

I lived in Brazil for many years, and I understand that travelling to the USA may be challenging especially for Kenshis from countries in Central and South America, both financially and acquiring travel documents. To have as many participants from various countries, my goal is to make this Gasshuku as affordable as possible.

Please let me know if someone from your country is interested in being part of this Gasshuku. Please reply to me with the application form to ariga@e-bogu.com by February 28, 2018. I am looking forward to having many countries participating.

Sincerely yours,

Taro Ariga
Kendo Kyoshi 7 Dan
Butokuden Dojo Head Instructor
E-BOGU.COM, Inc. CEO

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Additional Information:

- Dojo Address: BUTOKUDEN Dojo, 1581 Browning, Irvine, CA 92606 USA
- Marina Highschool: 15871 Springdale St, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 (AUSKF Junior Championships site)
- Nearby airports:
 - John Wayne (Orange County, Santa Ana) Airport (Airport code SNA): 5 min by car
 - Los Angeles International (Airport Code LAX): 1 hour by car (Approximate cost, shuttle bus \$30, UBER \$60)
 - Long Beach Airport (Airport Code LGB): 30 minutes by car
- Accommodation near the Dojo:
 - Motel 6: 1717 E Dyer Rd, Santa Ana, CA 92705 (0.8 Miles from Dojo) (\$35/person double occupancy)
 - Candlewood Suites: 2600 South Red Hill Avenue, Santa Ana, CA (\$102 + Tax per room, for 2 people in a room) (0.4 Miles from Dojo)
- Places to see:
 - Disneyland (15 minutes by car)
 - Knot's Berry Farm Park (20 minutes by car)
 - Newport Beach (15 minutes by car)
 - Universal Studios (1 hour by car)
 - Hollywood, Santa Monica (1 hour by car)
 - California Science Center – Space Shuttle Endeavour (1 hour by car)
 - Sea World (1.5 hours by car)
 - San Diego Zoo (1.5 hours by car)