

LITTLE HEROES KARATE KENSINGTON & MISSION HILLS

A few words on fees and attendance...

PHILOSOPHY:

Little Heroes Karate made a decision at the inception of the program, to offer month-to-month memberships, rather than a contract system. A contract system is more secure for a school, as it guarantees a certain level of income, and especially during slow times of the year. This is important, as rent, insurance, and other expenses are due year-round, not just when students choose to train. A small or new martial arts program can easily fail as a result of a few slow months. However, LHK would rather keep your child as a student, and keep your business, because we are adding value to your child's life, not because you are stuck in a contract. The following policies were put in place to allow us to offer the program year-round, and to reinforce the idea that supporting the studio year-round, guarantees that it will still be there when your child is ready to resume training. At the same time, these policies ensure that you are getting value for the money you spend on karate lessons.

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES & FEES:

LHK offers once per week (limited) and twice per week (unlimited) membership levels for students aged 6 & up. LHK offers a third class as well, most weeks, which can be used as a regular class, make-up, or as a third bonus class for twice-per-week students. At times, the weekend class may be canceled, due to holidays or instructor absence. No make-ups are offered for this weekend class. This class is held outdoors, and is offered to the neighborhood community at large in a complimentary way. (It is not intended as a second class for students who are on limited memberships however.) It is also a chance to bring a buddy to try out the class. If you are a limited membership student, feel free to come on a Saturday if you are bringing a new buddy that day. (That's your bonus for supporting LHK with your referrals!)

Fees are due in full, regardless of whether a student takes advantage of all the classes they have coming to them. We do not prorate fees for limited attendance, nor do we automatically stop invoicing fees if a student is not showing up, or has given indication that they can't attend for a while. (Medical leave with a doctor's note is an exception when the medical absence is 2 weeks or longer.) However, in addition to offering the third weekly class as a make-up, students can attend extra classes in the weeks preceding or following an absence as a form of make-up classes. If a student misses two weeks of class, or more, and is unable to make those up by attending extra group classes, private make-up lessons are offered on a fair-value basis. In other words, families are asked to continue to support the program financially, through regular payment of tuition, and LHK will make sure that they receive value for their money and that the program remains viable.

TIME-OFF

Experience shows us that, most students who take significant time-off from the training regimen, do not come back to training. In a young child's mind, there are too many insecurities and worries working against that happening, and there are plenty of new distractions to draw their attention away too. Parents often find themselves wishing that their child wanted to continue in this positive activity, but are not willing to fight the battle to guide the child back into his/her comfort zone of training. In general, time off is not recommended. If it is unavoidable, pre-planning and working with the teachers can help somewhat. Briefly, LHK views "time-off" as dropping out, as that is what often happens.

When a student needs to take extended time-off from training, but plans to return, they are asked to notify the studio in writing, and specify the dates. Their spot (and rank) can be held for up to 2 months. After that time, students lose one rank per month for non-medical absences, and are admitted on a space availability basis. On returning to training, a \$25 re-registration fee is due. Monthly fees are calculated at the then-current rate, and are not grandfathered. Any special scholarships, discounts, or other special arrangements are also not grandfathered. Any ranks that are lost can be tested for again as the student is ready, with regular testing fees applying. Students may opt to purchase private lessons to boost them back up to their previous level more quickly. Our experience is that students who come back from extended absences, do not fare too well, especially when they have to deal with loss of rank, skill, recall, or just peers who have passed them up. Therefore, we suggest training year-round, and taking advantage of the several make-up options when attendance is difficult. It is best to speak to the instructor directly when these issues come up.

Thank you for your support of your child in their Karate training!

LHK