

# RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT

Aikido training involves more than just practice of physical techniques. The "DO" in AI-KI-DO means "way" or "path". This refers to a way of life and a path of spiritual development. While aikido practice should be very enjoyable, it is more than simple play or entertainment. It is also a serious endeavor with which we hope to enrich our lives and develop our inner selves. As with many things in life, the benefits we get out of aikido depend on what we put into our practice.

## WE EXPECT YOU TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO REGULAR PRACTICE EVERY WEEK (2 OR MORE CLASSES).

Teachers and students depend on one another. Students cannot learn without a teacher and, no matter how skillful an instructor may be, he or she cannot teach without students. When you come to the dojo, you expect to find the instructor there and classes meeting at scheduled times. In just the same way, the teacher (who has committed to being there for you) expects students to attend regularly.

## IF YOU MUST MISS REGULAR CLASS FOR A WEEK OR MORE, PLEASE CALL THE DOJO (935-AIKI) AND SPEAK TO SENSEI OR LEAVE A MESSAGE.

Just as you would expect when enrolled in any type of school, regular attendance is important. In high school or college, you must attend class to pass a course. The same basic rule applies here. You can't learn properly without practicing on a steady schedule. You cannot progress through the ranks of aikido and learn more advanced techniques until you have sufficient practice hours.

## IF YOU MUST MISS CLASS FOR A MONTH OR LONGER, YOU SHOULD REQUEST A LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Sensei (and other students) will be concerned if you are not in class. You will be missed! Have the courtesy to let us know where you are and when we can expect you to return to regular practice. Dues are suspended once a Leave of Absence is requested, but not before then.

There is much more to learn about how to conduct yourself at the dojo, including such things as etiquette, safety & cleanliness.

Some things may be explained to you but, just like aikido technique, others must be learned by observation. Be attentive.

## MOST IMPORTANT, COME TO CLASS, LEAVE EVERYTHING ELSE BEHIND, BE READY TO LEARN!