

# Shotokan Karate-Do International Federation United States of America

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Dear Members,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

As you know, we are all facing very challenging times. Many of our dojos are closing, and several states are under “Shelter in Place” orders. I hope everyone is practicing all of the CDC, state, and local recommendations for staying safe during this pandemic.

Unfortunately, this week the SKIF-USA’s board of directors had to notify SKIF GHQ that, due to the coronavirus, we would not be able to host Kancho for our regular summer tour in 2020. However, we look forward to hosting Kancho in 2021. We have not decided to cancel any future SKIF-USA training events at this time but will keep you informed as developments occur.

However, we would like everyone to consider participating in our inaugural Kanazawa Week, May 1 – 8. This week of celebration is to honor Kanazawa Soke’s wish that we all give back to the community. Now, more than ever, I feel we all need to participate in this week. I encourage every one of you to figure out how to support and engage with your community in safe ways and within socially correct distances. Perhaps write handwritten letters to those vulnerable people isolated in their homes. Have young students draw pictures. If you are healthy, offer to shop for confined people or deliver food packages to porches from the local food shelf. Work with meals-on-wheels. When safe, be the person on your block that others can ask for help. There are endless ways you can find to engage and safely support your community. Share your ideas with our karate family. Let us know what your dojo has done for recognition during Kanazawa Week.

Although the coronavirus and social distancing are keeping us from our regular routines and dojo families, I hope we are all able to find in our karate training the center that will allow us to stay calm and engaged during this difficult time. We are so fortunate to live in the age of the internet. Although we will all be spending more time at home, there is still an opportunity for us to train and grow in our karate. We have the internet and YouTube to research our art through. We can utilize Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, email, and texting to share our ideas and experiences. SKIF has thousands of training videos online. Many noted SKIF instructors around the world share their training ideas on YouTube. Or perhaps you have a training video you would like to share with our members. Many of our closed dojos are offering this type of training to stay engaged with their students. SKIF-USA would be glad to post these on our social media. I urge you all to stay connected to your SKIF-USA family. Reach out across the country and let your fellow karate students know they are not alone.

More than anything, karate is a journey, and this is just one bump in this road (although a considerable bump). We can choose to remain isolated and alone, or we can use this event to find a new step forward in our training. This unique and challenging moment may be a way for many to find a new understanding of the interconnectedness among us all in the karate spirit. “And that could ripple out to benefit all.”

“The space in between is never empty.”

Stay safe,  
Chris Johnson  
General Secretary  
SKIF-USA

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