



**Who remembers about Aikido demonstrations at your school and/or about the field trip you had to Aikido Nippon Kan?**

During 1980s, various members of Aikido Nippon Kan visited many elementary schools in Denver and in its neighboring cities to teach children about Aikido and to do Aikido demonstrations. And after 1998, Aikido Nippon Kan started hosting field trips from local elementary schools at its current location in downtown Denver near Auraria Campus.

Aikido Nippon Kan was founded in 1976 in Denver as the first dojo that taught only Aikido (*the word “dojo” literally means “place of the Way” in Japanese, and in this case, it means “the place where Aikido is taught and learned”.*).

Before Aikido Nippon Kan was founded, Aikido had been practiced by Aikido enthusiasts at various places, such as local gyms, youth clubs, or by renting a space at local Judo dojo and Karate dojo, and there had not been Aikido-specific dojo anywhere in the Greater Denver Area.

Soon after Aikido Nippon Kan was founded, its founding members started vigorous promotion campaigns. Aikido Nippon Kan focused on visiting local elementary schools to do Aikido demonstrations and to teach children about a Japanese martial art of Aikido, especially during 1980s. The goal that we had set for ourselves was to visit every elementary school in the region. To make ourselves more known, Japanese culture classes on Ikebana (aka Kadō), the Japanese art of flower arrangement) and Shodō, Japanese calligraphy, were offered, in addition to Aikido classes.

The children we visited at different schools or hosted during their field trips are in their 40s or older now, and it is not unusual that some of those then-children-now-parents enroll their own child/children in Aikido Nippon Kan’s Children’s classes (aka Nippon Kan Youth Program).

When Aikido Nippon Kan relocated to the current location 23 years ago, Aikido Nippon Kan combined a large dojo space with a Japanese folklore museum and a Japanese garden at one single location. And we have hosted over 20,000 students during their field trips over more than 2 decades.

Aikido Nippon Kan is proud to be the largest Aikido-specific dojo with the largest “keiko (i.e. practice)” space with notable Japanese cultural amenities in the Rocky Mountains region.

Aikido Nippon Kan’s Children’s Classes (aka Nippon Kan Youth Program) have been supported by many parents and guardians over the past decades. And many children continue their practice of Aikido at Aikido Nippon Kan when they become young adults by enrolling in adult classes.

*“Children and the Martial Arts”* was published by Gaku Homma Sensei, the founder of Aikido Nippon Kan, in 1993 as the pioneer-literature and as a beacon on how to teach Aikido to children. The book has been translated into 5 different languages, and it continues guiding Aikido instructors worldwide to help young Aikidoists pursue their endeavor in the art of Aikido.

Aikido Nippon Kan does not carry out any aggressive recruiting activity to keep the quality of Children's Classes at a high level. Aikido Nippon Kan has and always encourages any parent/guardian and their child/children to observe a class before deciding to enroll in a class or not.

Any martial art (aka "Budo") dojo is neither a children's playground nor a supervised play area for children. Gaku Homma, the founder of Aikido Nippon Kan, firmly believes that Children's Classes require a high quality in the teaching standard backed by highly experienced instructors with solid teaching philosophy, just as for any adult classes. Following Gaku Homma's credo, Aikido Nippon Kan does not place its Children Classes as its main source of revenues. Rather, Aikido Nippon Kan maintains high quality adult classes as its solid foundation while educating and training instructors for Children's Classes to develop an attitude by which they teach to help young enthusiasts nurture their appreciation for the way of Aikido.

If you are interested in the practice of Aikido for your child/children, please read "*Children and the Martial Arts*".

- The book is available for download for free at <http://www.nippon-kan.org/senseis-corner/aikido-books-gaku-homma-sensei/>.)

### **Aikido Nippon Kan Children's Classes (aka Nippon Kan Youth Program) - Schedule**

- Youth class every Saturday 10:00AM to 11:00AM.
- Advanced Youth class every Saturday 11:00AM to 12:00PM (using both technique and weapons)
- Youth class is both boys and girls ages 7 years old to 15 years old.
- Promotions for Youth class are held twice a year in January and July.
- Youth class has Parents observation day on the second Saturday of every odd month where parents are allowed to observe their children participate in the Aikido techniques on the mat in the Nippon Kan dojo.
- Youth are encouraged to join the high rank Aikido Students in volunteer projects outside the dojo – which is a wonderful opportunity to gain community service credits for their schools.

- Once the youth members are promoted to the higher level and demonstrate the level of understanding and discipline, they are invited to join the advanced class from 11:00AM to 12:00PM.

### **Class Fee:**

- Membership Fee is \$25.00 per month per child.
- Family discounts are available for multiple family members. Please inquire at the front office.
- There is no one-time joining fee.
- There is no mandatory purchase of a keiko-gi, i.e. a practice uniform.
- There is no exam for a belt promotion, and hence no exam fee.
  - Aikido Nippon Kan announces belt promotions twice a year, and belt promotion decisions are made based on students' attendance and their progress in the practice of Aikido.
  - A fee of \$5.00 per promotion is charged for those who are promoted.
- There is no hidden fee at all.

### **How to Join?**

- Anyone interested is highly encourage to observe a class first.
  - Children's Classes are held every Saturday from 10:00AM to 11:00AM for those who are from 7 to 15 years of age.
  - The Advanced Youth Program is held every Saturday from 11:00AM to 12:00PM.
- Please inquire at the front office for details.
  - We will do our best to answer all the questions you may have, but we will not give you a pushy, aggressive sales pitch for you or your child/children to become a member.

- Once you have made up your mind, please let us know, and we will ask you to fill out a form(s) and pay the monthly membership fee.
- There is no need to make a reservation to observe a class.

**Location:**

Aikido Nippon Kan

1365 Osage Street

Denver, CO 80204

Tel: (303) 595-8256

Email: [info@nippon-kan.org](mailto:info@nippon-kan.org)

Website: [www.nippon-kan.org](http://www.nippon-kan.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nkdojo22>.

**Word of Caution:**

- There is a number of locations that teaches Aikido in Denver and its surrounding areas, and some of such locations have instructors who have learned Aikido at Aikido Nippon Kan.
  - However, please be advised that none of such locations in the Greater Denver Area is affiliated with Aikido Nippon Kan, and their teaching styles are different from that of Aikido Nippon Kan.
  - Please remain vigilant in your search for, and in your selection of, a right Aikido dojo for your child/children.