

THE 5 PRINCIPLES OF THE OKINAWA KENPO KOBUDO DOJO

(Also used by Shotokan Karate)



Seek perfection of character
Be faithful
Endeavor
Respect others
Refrain from violent Behavior

THE FOUR A's OF MARTIAL ARTS

Attitude

Attendance

Attire

Ability



MY OBI

(Tim Everson)



*As I wrap this obi around my waist,
I bow my head with no disgrace.
It is a symbol of knowledge which I have learned,
Its color shows the degree which I have earned.
All this knowledge I hold to this day,
I owe to no one but my Sensei,
In my heart where no one can see,
I will always respect and protect my obi.*

Your obi represents your time in training. It symbolizes the blood, sweat and tears that you experienced through rigorous karate training. The obi is not to be worshipped but is expected to be respected and never to be found on the floor played with. The obi should not be washed. The traditional belt system was white, green, brown and black. White symbolizes purity, the absence of all color and willingness to learn. The green symbolizes growth. Training over the years, the obi is tarnished by grass stains from training outside, giving its green color and eventually turning brown from dirt and mud. Then, completely into black, the accumulation of all colors. Now, you've earned your shodan, meaning the first step. As it continues to be worn over the years of training, it will begin to shed and underneath all the knowledge and wisdom, is the color of white. The white represents purity and willingness to learn as the true master is always humble, honorable and faithful in and outside of the dojo.