



26th KARATE CHALLENGE

Saturday March 7, 2026

(780) 458-6931

3 Rowland Crescent
St. Albert, AB T8N 4B2
desakarate@shaw.ca

This year marks the 27th Karate Challenge! Insane! It is THE major fundraiser for Spirit of the North 2026 and with this year being the Kenyukai Koshukai it is truly important that it be a financial success. 80% of the funds raised goes to the Masters Fund, which helps cover the cost of bringing Master Instructors from all over the world to work with our students, including Shinjo Sensei this year. **The remaining 20% of the profits goes to local charities.** In past years we have been able to donate between \$5000-7000 to various groups including SAIF, Victim Services, Sidekicks, Big Brothers and Sisters, Special Olympics, Red Cross Respect Program, Food Bank, Kidsport, Canadian Tire Jumpstart program, the ALS Society, Jessica Martel Foundation, Amy's House, Basically Babies, Seniors groups and more!

We have had some other great training opportunities subsidized by the Masters Fund over the years as well, with a wide variety of Master Instructors from Okinawa, across the USA and other parts of the world in addition to some highly trained local instructors. The money raised during the Karate Challenge has helped to lower registration fees for these events and in some cases even provide them for free!

The Karate Challenge takes place on Saturday, March 7 at the St. Albert dojo. **Each rank will have a specific time to come in and go through the specialized circuit we have dreamed up for you all!** We will also have some contests during regular classes the week leading up to March 7 and you will qualify for some prizes in those contests if you are committing to going out to get sponsors for the Challenge itself. Lastly, every student who goes out and raises sponsorship money will get a chance to **break a board** on Saturday and of course get draw slips to win one of the many great prizes that are being collected/donated.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!

- Take the attached sponsor sheet to neighbors, family, coworkers and friends! If you need a second sheet, please grab one from the office or ask to have one emailed to you. We ask that each student try to rustle up as many sponsors as you can. Similar to a walk/run concept for sponsorship, potential sponsors are supporting you to take on the Challenge circuit and with the goal of completing it in its entirety. **Remember to tell potential sponsors that 20% of the profits will be donated to local charities.** Please note that because we are not a registered charity, charitable income tax receipts cannot be issued, however we can issue a receipt to any company who wants one to use as an advertisement/promotion expense.
- Bring your sponsor sheet and sponsorship money to the last class you plan on attending during the week of Mar 2-6 or you can bring it on the Saturday Challenge Day. **Note that all cheques must be made out to SPIRIT and NOT Desa School of Karate.** Please note that if you are choosing to etransfer your sponsorship money it must come in **ONE lump sum** prior to or on Saturday morning and the name of the student must be included in the notes. The etransfer must go to spiritofthenorth@shaw.ca NOT the regular dojo email that you send tuition and other payments to. **We recommend those wanting to sponsor you send their donation directly to you, then once you have collected all sponsorships you can etransfer it or bring it in as one lump sum.**
- **The more sponsorship you get, the more draw slips you get** for the great prizes that are being donated for this event! Prizes will be on display starting February 17 as they arrive in the dojo so that we can give maximum exposure to the companies that donated. When you hand in your completed sponsor sheet you will get your draw slips and be able to enter your name for the prizes that appeal to you the most! **Any individual who raises \$40.00 in sponsorship or any family that raises over \$100.00 in sponsorship is eligible to enter the prize draws. The exception are the Kickstart kids who only have to raise \$25 to take part in the event and get one drawslip. If they get more sponsorship then they will get more drawslips. They can also be grouped into the family sponsorship as noted here.**
- In addition to getting regular drawslips, we will once again have a special draw for anyone who raises over \$250 in sponsorship – for every \$250 raised you get an entry for \$50 cash. We will also have a \$50 gift certificate for the individual and the family that raises the most sponsorship.
- The Italian Raffles have been popular during this event as well. This often appeals to adults who perhaps have a harder time going out and asking for sponsorships but still want to support the fundraising event. You can buy squares to win prizes including (we hope) some Oilers tickets, for sure a Shureido gi, some “beverage” baskets, a gorgeous hand made quilt and a few other fun baskets/prizes! Parents - we encourage you to come in and see the Italian Raffle prizes when you drop off your kids and buy some squares! They will be on display as well the day of the event.



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GET READY TO BREAK A BOARD! There will be a big banner on the red wall starting Feb 10. Please take the time to add the name(s) of anyone who will be participating in the Challenge so that we order a board for them to break on the Saturday! The goal is to get your name on this banner by Feb 26 to help us have an idea of how many of each size board to purchase. The instructors will be getting you ready in class to help you succeed!

WHEN TO BE THERE:	10:00 am	Kickstart/white/yellow belt children
	10:30 am	Blue/Red belt children
	11:00 am	Purple/Green belt children
	11:30 am	Brown belt/Jr. Shodan who train in children's classes
	12:30 pm	Teen/Adults all ranks group circuit class

Note that if you have multiple ranks in a family they can all come together at the same time if that makes it easier for your family. Also if you have conflicting events the same day, you can come at a different time -we are only setting the above schedule to try to alleviate everyone coming in at the same time.

WE NEED SOME PRIZES! If you or anyone in your family has someone they can approach to ask for a prize donation, please do so – perhaps your work, friends with businesses, or your own family or business. We are looking for gift cards for anything, tickets or admission to concerts, events, Oilers/Oil Kings games, movies, restaurants or other fun events or recreational activities like Lasertag, bowling, rock climbing, etc. Actual items like toys (Lego is always a hit!) games, electronics, things for homes, and so much more are also welcome. Services are also a hot item such as esthetics, hair salons, vehicle stuff, home services, etc. Any and all donations would be gratefully accepted! If it is something that your child/teen or your family would appreciate winning, then it is sure to be a good choice! If you have an extra bottle of liquor at home that you want to contribute for the beverage baskets, there is that option also. Sometimes people also have small items at home they received and won't use that are brand new (toys, books, games, candy) and those are good for us to use when making up baskets of like things. We do have donation request letters available at the office if you need them and a copy is with this package as well. Maybe you have an unopened Christmas gift you will never use or was a duplicate or an unused gift card you might never use. . .

VOLUNTEERS

On Saturday, March 7 we need as many of our Black Belts and Jr. Black Belt teens as possible to come in to assist with the stations. We also need some of our teens or 10-11 Jr old Jr. Black Belts to help younger kids go through the circuits. If you are able to help please sign up on the bulletin board (the sheet will be up Feb 12) or pop an email to the office to let us know you can help. We also need help at the registration desk in shifts during the morning.

LASTLY If you need a way to support this event and none of the above works for you, consider sponsoring either Sensei deSa, Sensei Janet or Sempai Noah! In 2023 we had a challenge between Sensei deSa and Sensei Janet, 2024 it was between Sempais Mathew and Noah, last year it was between Sensei deSa and Sempai Noah to see who would get the most sponsorship – Keep an eye on the bulletin board and watch the numbers climb to see who will win the challenge this year! We are still working on what becomes of the loser in this challenge!

We hope that you all enjoy this annual fun event that helps to subsidize Spirit of the North and other training events. Charities are also big winners if we get a lot of sponsorship in. It has been rewarding to see these charities receive their cheques as we do present them at the dojo so that our students can see that their hard work fundraising helps others!

If you have any questions on how this event works or how you can help, please ask!