



WASHINGTON JUDO ACADEMY

501(c)(3) nonprofit

HOUGHTON VILLAGE
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Quick Summary

- **Fast-growing 501(c)(3) nonprofit startup:** Established in late 2022, we grew from 20 kids to 200+ members, including nationally and internationally ranked athletes in < 2 years (900% growth).
- **True family club:** Recreational and ultra-competitive training programs for entire families starting from 2 years old. We have classes where parents train alongside with their kids! Some families and kids spent hours in the club daily volunteering and training.
- **Team synergy:** A unique team of professionals - from business to IT who just happened to be USA Judo certified coaches - drives the club's mission to elevate Judo, one of the best youth sports ever, to a world-class level in the United States, beginning right here in Kirkland.
- **World-class programs:** Every dollar is reinvested to improve the programs and bring world-class Judo to Kirkland, featuring Olympians and world-class athletes who inspire both children and adults.
- **Community-focused:** Addressing community needs by working with local schools, refugees, low-income families and supporting special needs students.
- **Accelerated growth:** We are committed to expanding our impact and are actively seeking resources to achieve this goal.
- **Immediate needs:** Space. We're running out of space as more families learn about us. We can compete with for-profit businesses for leases, but there are simply no suitable spaces in Kirkland. Parents asking us to stay in this area.



Our Unique Approach

There is more to our formula for success:

- **International programs:** We invested into trusted relationships with international Judo clubs to organize exchange programs and training camps for kids and families from Washington and across the nation. Our next camp begins in August 2024 in **Tokyo, Japan** with 50+ travelers.
- **Fostering young leaders:** Washington Judo Academy is certified by the President's Volunteer Service Award, recognizing outstanding volunteers as role models for other children.
- **Applying business lessons:** We take lessons from other sports to build the capital necessary to elevate and grow Judo in the United States.
- **Innovation at the heart:** We are not afraid of taking risks and do things that have never been done in Judo before.
- **Crossing boundaries:** We embrace the fact that Judo is undeservedly a niche sport in the United States, so part of our outreach efforts involves bringing it to more popular sports like Wrestling and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, where our athletes outclass the competition.
- **Bottom-up approach:** We believe in elevating Judo in the United States from the grassroots level, starting with the establishment of a world-class training center here in Kirkland.



Our Projects

- Enrichment programs for local schools
- A daycare program featuring activities based on Judo and Japanese culture
- Homework and Study Help Group: We assist kids in organizing their after-school schedule by providing help with studies and homework, seamlessly transitioning into judo training with an optional pick-up from school service added in the future.
- Early morning fitness classes for busy parents
- An international training camp in Kirkland, featuring top coaches from Japan and the United States, scheduled for August
- A lot of opportunities for after-school activities and foot traffic for other businesses
- We are committed to expanding our impact and are actively seeking resources to achieve this goal.
- **Our only constraint is the available space.**



What is Judo?

- **A spectacular martial art:** One of the most watched Olympic sports, featuring explosive high-amplitude throws. Think of it as wrestling in a uniform (gi), but way more impressive! :)
- **Best athletic foundation for kids:** Judo is one of the best all-around athletic bases, promoting explosiveness, flexibility, acrobatics, whole-body strength, coordination, and brain development by requiring athletes to think and react in multiple dimensions.
- **Makes people fly:** Imagine throwing your opponent into the air while balancing on one foot, swinging the other up, and rotating your shoulders to the ground—all while your opponent does not want any of that to happen.
- **Core values:** A traditional Japanese martial art teaching youth athletes respect, discipline and hard work.



Judo in the United States

- A mismanaged organization caused the sport to lose its momentum since the 1970s
- A disproportionate reflection of its massive global popularity, similar to soccer.
- Athletes struggle to self-fund in order to represent the United States on the world stage.
- Judo is poor - most clubs have low cash flow and no resources for marketing.



But it's Time for a Change

- **LA 2028 Summer Olympics** - top USA Judo athletes will automatically qualify
- There is increased demand for cross-training in Judo from other sport disciplines thanks to sport popularizers like John Danaher
- We have the right legacy - the first ever Judo club in the north america was opened here in Seattle and 2 out of the only 3 Olympic judo medalists from USA in the last 15 years are from Washington state!
- There never been a better moment for a change and Kirkland can be the epicenter of the new Judo wave enriching kids & family lifes and producing a new generation of the future Olympians

