

Cho's Tae Kwon Do
1st Recommended Black Belt Essay
By Ryan Wells
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I joined Cho's Tae Kwon Do in September of 2003 when I was five years old. My parents were the ones who thought we should try Tae Kwon Do, and my sister and I wanted to try it too. The first thing I remember about walking into the Do Jang for the first time was a couple of young black belts running and kicking the hanging bags. This made me think that Tae Kwon Do was all about punching and kicking, so I got excited about joining. Then we met the Farrell's, and both my parents and I felt even better about joining Tae Kwon Do.

The first few classes in the Little Panthers I felt very nervous. I was wearing street clothes and wondered about the uniforms and different belts the other kids were wearing. I was REALLY excited when I got my uniform and belt. After I earned my first few belts and got to know other students and learned more of my curriculum I felt more confident. Then when I turned six and had earned my green stripe, I had to move out of the Little Panthers up to the kids' class. This was my first big test – for my yellow belt. That test I was really, really, REALLY nervous because it was so different from the little panthers tests. There were a lot more kids and parents at the test.

It was in the kids' class that I started hearing about Grand Master. I wanted to learn more about him. I had seen pictures of him, but I always wanted to meet him in person. Then in the summer of 2006, we got to go to Flagstaff, Arizona for Cho's Summer Camp. It was there that I finally got to meet Grand Master Cho. I also met Master Ameris, Master Darcy and Grand Master's nephew, Jason Cho. I had a lot of fun there, meeting new friends and training with Master Darcy, Master Ameris and it was an honor to train with Grand Master Cho. I learned a lot of new things there and it was a blast.

Throughout my training I have had the opportunity to compete in several tournaments. I learned a lot from the tournaments. I learned a lot about learning from my mistakes, not to judge opponents by how they looked and good sportsmanship. I had a lot of fun doing

tournaments, especially the times I won first place. When I didn't win, I used the experience to make me better.

A couple of years ago my dad joined Tae Kwon Do too. I learned a lot by helping my dad with his forms and literary knowledge. By teaching him, it helped me be less nervous by making me think to slow down during my own forms and think about the stances.

What I have learned from Tae Kwon Do is respect for my family, my teachers and other people I know. I also have learned more about responsibility for my actions, like doing my chores and what my parents ask me to do.

Tae Kwon Do has also taught me about being master of my own impulses. Now when someone comes up to me and taunts me or bothers me, I just walk away. I don't get mad and start a fight. I also have learned about perseverance, like when stuff gets hard I don't give up.

I want to thank my family, friends and Mr. and Mrs. Farrell for all their support and help throughout my training. This is an honor to test for my black belt and I am going to try to stick to Cho's Tae Kwon Do as long as I can and try to always make myself better. Getting my black belt is a big responsibility, and I will always use my abilities for what is right.

Most importantly, I want to thank Grand Master for giving us the gift of the school to learn what we have learned. Without him I doubt I would be in Tae Kwon Do and learned what I have learned.

Thank You,
Ryan Wells

I thank my family for supporting me in Tae Kwon Do and helping me learn from my mistakes. I want to thank my mom and dad for driving me to class every week. You helped me through tough times, and for that I thank you. I love you guys very much.