

## **JKA USA National Karate Camp 2025**

### **June 19–22, 2025 — New Orleans, Louisiana**

This year's JKA USA National Karate Camp was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from June 19-22, 2025, and was a tremendous success. This event brought together over 200 JKA karateka from across the United States for four days of rigorous training and camaraderie.



The event was hosted by the ***JKA American Federation*** under the leadership of its Chief Instructor, Sensei Takayuki Mikami (9th Dan), whose lifelong dedication to the spread of traditional JKA karate continues to guide the growth of Shotokan karate in America.

The 2025 camp was elevated by the presence of two of the Japan Karate Association's most esteemed senior instructors:

- **Sensei Takeshi Oishi** (*9th Dan, JKA Chief Instructor*)
- **Sensei Yasunori Ogura** (*8th Dan, JKA Vice Chief Instructor*)



Both instructors, visiting from JKA Headquarters in Tokyo, led multiple sessions focused on kihon, kata, and kumite. Under their expert supervision, training emphasized key fundamentals such as distancing, timing, and rhythm.

Notable highlights of the camp included:

- **Advanced Kata Workshops:** Led by Sensei Ogura, in-depth sessions on Jion, Gojushiho Dai, and Gojushiho Sho offered new clarity on these advanced forms and their intricate transitions.
- **Kumite Seminars:** Sensei Oishi's dynamic kumite drills challenged participants to refine their precision and timing while maintaining strong focus and good posture.
- **Instructor & Judge Certification Course:** Open to qualified black belts, this focused track provided guidance on pedagogy, evaluation, and the JKA's world-class judging standards.
- **Dan and Qualification Exams:** Over the weekend, over 50 candidates tested for higher dan ranks, judging and teaching certifications, with many demonstrating strong spirit and a high degree of technical competence.

In true New Orleans fashion, the camp offered more than just training - it also provided time to connect socially and experience the city's vibrant culture. Evenings were filled with the unique charm of the Crescent City, featuring local excursions such as swamp and Mardi Gras tours, savoring Louisiana's renowned cuisine, and enjoying a summer sunset aboard a jazz riverboat cruise.



The JKA American Federation extends its deepest appreciation to Sensei Oishi and Sensei Ogura for their instruction and inspiration throughout the event. Their dedication and insight made the 2025 JKA USA National Karate Camp an unforgettable and unifying experience for all in attendance.

Scott Decuir  
Secretary,  
JKA American Federation