

Seattle Kokon Taiko Apprenticeship FAQ Page

Considering applying for an apprenticeship with SKT? Here are some commonly asked questions.

When are auditions held?

- We audition once a year, typically in March.

Where are the auditions held?

- At our practice space in the International District.

How long is the apprenticeship?

- The apprenticeship is 6 months long. Either March to September or April to October.

What is the SKT audition process?

- The audition is a 3-step process. Written application, hands-on demonstration and individual interview. An applicant may be dismissed at any step in the process.

How do I apply?

- Go to our “auditions” page, download the application and email it to the address provided by the due date.

What is involved in the hands-on portion of the audition?

- Applicants will be guided through a series of stretches and movement exercises to demonstrate balance, flexibility, grace and coordination. This will be followed by a series of drumming drills to demonstrate rhythm, strength, timing, form, and sticking technique. The audition will most often conclude with a performance of the song Matsuri bayashi to combine all the elements mentioned above.

How are selections made?

- Following each stage of the process, SKT members meet to discuss the applicants’ performance, after which a representative will contact each applicant with their individual results.

How many apprentices do you take in a year?

- We do not set a limit on the number apprentices we accept in a given year, however, we may also take none.

When is the dedicated apprentice training?

- Sundays from 12pm to 2pm.

What other practices are apprentices to attend?

- Sunday group practice from 2pm to 6pm is required.
- Thursday group practice from 7pm to 9pm is optional but very highly recommended.

- Often we are fortunate to be offered workshops by guest artists visiting Seattle. These are optional but attendance is highly encouraged.
- There will be special occasions that call for an additional practice outside of our normal times. Apprentices will be notified if they should attend these supplemental practices on a case by case basis.

What are some other expectations of an apprentice member?

- Outside of normal practice times apprentices are required to sign up for as many performances as possible so as to become familiar with the logistics of loading-in and loading-out, spiking, stage set up as well as performance presentation and etiquette.
- To attend equipment repair and painting parties.
- To volunteer at our practice space, NVC (Nisei Veterans Committee), as often as possible to help with their community events.

How often does SKT perform?

- 25 to 40 times a year.

What happens after the apprenticeship is over?

- Apprentices will be re-evaluated for full membership following a review structured much like the original hands-on audition.
- If successful in passing the re-evaluation, you will be presented with the opportunity to become a performing member of SKT.

What expectations do you have of performing members of SKT?

- Attend all normal group practices on Sunday from 12pm to 6pm and Thursday from 7pm to 9pm. From October to February, Sunday group practice is 2pm to 6pm.
- Sign up for gigs as a performing member.
- Help with classes from October to February.
- If you have a special skill set like photography, videography, website management, graphic design, sewing, etc. we may call on you for help occasionally.
- Outside of performing and rehearsing, we have many other non-playing activities that need to be done, such as, helping with moving equipment at performances, selling merchandise at performances and equipment repair and painting parties.
- Volunteer at our practice space, NVC (Nisei Veterans Committee) to help with community events.

Does SKT have a membership fee?

- Yes, Seattle Kokon Taiko charges it's performing members a monthly fee of \$30.