

# My Black Belt Journey

by: Tiana Marti



My black belt journey has been very difficult for me. I have been in karate for ten years! I started when I was five years old. Ever since I was that little, I always thought it would be cool to get a black belt, but it's not that easy. You have to train your body for this black belt test, not only physically but mentally! You have to memorize all these different movements. Which is good so you know how to keep yourself alive in this cruel world.

When I was 14, I took my first black belt test, a test for my Jr. black belt. This test was in June 2011. I was very scared at first because I didn't know what to expect, but once I started the test, it wasn't as difficult as I expected it to be. The black belt test for me was a six hour test, it was very hot that day, but I never gave up. I knew I could get through my first test. When I finished the test, I was saying to myself, "I hope I did good enough, I hope I passed!" Then, moments later, the judges called my name, saying that I passed. My heart finally was beating normal again and I had a huge smile on my face!

My next black belt test came when I was 15, December 2012. I was nervous for the test, but had the confidence that I would pass. This test wasn't easier, but it did only last for 4 hours, which I was happy about. I will keep trying my hardest to continue my journey. I know that I have accomplished something huge in my life and I'm thankful for that.