



TKO BOXING CLUB HISTORY, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

THIS YEAR TKO CELEBRATES 24 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO OUR YOUTH!!

The TKO Boxing Club was formed in 1994 by community activist John M. Raya to serve as a gang prevention/alternative youth program for at risk population in the city of Santa Ana and surrounding areas. Santa Ana is the most densely populated city in Orange County and also has the youngest population. It is also the city with the largest gang population in the County.

TKO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides a cost-free after-school program and is operated by an **all-volunteer** staff. At TKO, youths between the ages 8 to 18, learn how to establish and achieve goals in a positive, competitive and structured environment. TKO follows the guidelines and rules of USA Boxing, the national governing body of amateur boxing located in Colorado Springs, CO. It is mandatory that all trainers are certified by USA Boxing and be subject to the rules of conduct created by the TKO Board of Directors.

TKO's mission is to challenge youths to achieve their academic and athletic potential. A daily regime of training and the monitoring of their academic performance teach them the virtue of committed discipline for the fundamentals required for the achievement of a worthy goal. TKO's objective is not to turn these youths into professional boxers, but to mentor them and guide them how to become successful, productive adults, preparing them to give back to their community and encourage them to become mentors themselves.

Although boxing is the means by which we attract and retain many of our participants, most do not enter into the competitive aspect of the sport. Our true focus is on the academic achievement of all of our participants and we support this with an onsite computer lab and study area. TKO members must maintain a minimum of a C average, satisfactory citizenship in school and in the community; satisfactory school attendance; and parents must be actively involved in supporting these objectives. The parents' concern for the academic performance of their children and their participation in volunteering when needed is vital to the success of TKO and its mission. We celebrate our focus on the student athlete at our scholarship award ceremony every year. Our annual scholarship award is named for Deputy Chief Bruce Carlson, a former Santa Ana police officer who passed away in 2006 but is honored for his commitment to the youth and their success.

We have an average daily attendance of 50-60 youths and TKO has an annual membership of 200+ youths. TKO provides its students/athletes a safe place to gather 5 to 7 days a week. The youths that would otherwise be a target for gang recruitment or potential victims are now a positive influence in the community.

Thru leadership provided by Director Mary Lara and Head Coach Hector Lopez, TKO has developed into a program that has garnered national and international recognition. As a result of the leadership, the team work of the coaches, parents and the dedication of the students/athletes, TKO boxers have won many national and international championships. Our greatest success is in the hands of the youth who have passed thru our program and have emerged a little better prepared for their future.

Our goal is to continue our successful program and this will be made possible only through the generosity of tax-deductible donations from community members and corporations.

(Non-profit No. 33-0872050)