

The fifth annual Kyu Fest was hosted at Charlotte Catholic High School on Saturday the 28th of September by United Southern Isshinryu Karate of Charlotte NC. Following a Black Belt Meeting and photos sessions, and introduction of VIPs, the Sun Valley High School Junior Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (JNROTC) Honor Guard presented the colors in an impressive ceremony which officially kicked off the tournament, which began promptly at 1100 (11 AM). Overall, 160 competitors competed in 63 divisions, including Kumite (free fighting), Empty Hand Kata (forms) and Weapons Kata (forms). Additionally, over 250 spectators (mostly direct family members) were in attendance. The event ended promptly at 1400 (2 PM), followed by lunch.

Since 2009, this event has grown steadily and served as a means not only to support a unique venue for a kyu ranks (under black belt) tournament, but also an educational atmosphere in which to train and develop newly promoted black belts, as well as instructor and mid-level black belts in the nuances of logistics, judging, and operating a safe and efficient tournament.

Kyu Fest was also supported by a variety of Isshinryu Masters and Grand Masters in the Carolinas, including Grand Master Phil Little, Grand Master Mitch Kobylanski (host), Masters Tim Boykin, Tim Grismer, Butch McLaughlin, Tim Cunningham, Peter Keko, H.P. Henry and Joe Snyder.

[Click here to view pictures](#) from the event.