

Why We Are **TIGER** TAEKWONDO

In the animal kingdom, the Tiger is the King of animals. When hunting, the Tiger carefully chooses his prey. He knows well his individual abilities and, based on these abilities, he chooses an attainable prey (or goal) which to pursue. The Tiger carefully plans how to approach his prey, knowing that without proper preparation, he will not be successful. He waits patiently for the right moment to attack, re-evaluating his goal and his plan to reach that goal. When the right moment arrives, he charges in with all his effort - despite the risk of getting hurt - with complete focus and concentration. Because he has chosen his goal wisely, has waited patiently until the right moment and puts forth 110% of his effort, he knows that he will be successful. Once his prey has fallen, he enjoys his success by 'roaring' his pleasure - knowing that he has accomplished what he set out to do. He then shares his success with others by sharing the prey.

From the Tiger, we learn the positive qualities of knowing ourselves and our abilities, how to prepare to reach our goals, the importance of patience and discipline, and how to proceed with our plans when we know the time is right, despite obstacles and our own fear. When we understand and put these traits into practice, we too will become successful in the Dojang and in life.

In ancient times the Tiger was the messenger of the mountain spirit, San Shin. The Tiger lies quietly at the side of the mountain god, waiting to do his bidding. His purpose is to carry out 'good deeds', especially to those individuals who are trying to improve themselves. Like the Tiger, we need to recognize what talent we have that will make the world a better place - and use our time and energy to apply that talent to benefit others.