High Brown Belt Prep Cycle Winter 2024

Welcome to the Winter 2024 Prep Cycle! This program is going to be an experience for you—with new challenges, training opportunities, and mental as well as physical landmarks that you have yet to be faced with Ripple Effect Martial Arts and will prepare you to test for your Conditional Black Belt at the Black Belt Immersion Weekend, planned for May 10-12, 2024 at YMCA of the Rockies - Estes Park.

This manual includes the High Brown Belt prep cycle requirements and expectations. Please carefully read this entire manual and submit the Entrance Form (Page 8) and the Release of Information (Page 9) when you arrive for the Entrance Exam on January 13th.

Please submit the Prep Cycle Physical Form to Dr. Johns via email RippleEffectMedicalCoach@gmail.com.

Prep Cycle Team

Ms. Schnur will be the Prep Cycle Director and Mrs. Emily Fox will be the Prep Cycle Coordinator for the Winter 2024 Prep Cycle. All communication should be sent through the dedicated prep cycle email: prepcycle@rippleeffectmartialarts.com. We are excited to take this journey with you!

Expectations of Prep Cycle Students

This intense training requires dedication on your behalf, and it is critical to remember that *attitude is everything*. Black Belt is more than a physical achievement. The Black Belts and instructors at Ripple Effect Martial Arts expect that you increasingly embody the overall attitude and embrace the character attributes that we recite in the Black Belt Creed. Ultimately, our goal is to see you become strong leaders in the community and lead your life with integrity and perseverance.

- Parents and students: If you have any concerns or comments please bring them to your prep
 cycle team directly, since often emails can be misconstrued. Please allow 24 hours for response
 to emails.
- Please note that having a bad or disrespectful attitude on either side (parent or student) will
 result in your dismissal and you will need to wait until the next testing cycle.
- We have a Prep Cycle strike system for poor attitude or effort, including attendance and
 accountability. If a student receives 3 strikes, they will be dismissed from this prep cycle and will
 need to wait until the next testing cycle. A strike can be received for poor attitude, disrespect,
 and/or lack of effort on behalf of the parent or the student. Earning a strike will be directly
 communicated with the student and family in person or via email.
- Students will receive a grade (A, B, or C) for each prep cycle training based on their effort, attitude, and preparedness. Grades are intended to track student's progress. Students are responsible for asking their Prep Cycle leaders what grade they earned for a given practice. If a student forgets equipment, training notebook, has not completed their homework, or is late, the student will automatically have their grade decreased by a letter. Students who receive two consecutive C ratings will receive a strike.

Make sure that you read this entire manual so that you thoroughly understand the expectations of your Black Belt instructors and the criteria by which you will be evaluated. Prep Cycle is intended to improve your martial arts technique, raise your level of performance, demonstrate your commitment and mental strength, strengthen your Black Belt character, and prepare you for your Black Belt test. Participation does not guarantee your next rank; if at any point a student exhibits a poor attitude, negative behavior, or does not give their best effort, the student will be asked to wait until the next testing cycle. If, at any time, the instructors feel that a student is not ready for the Black Belt Test, we will postpone their test date while the student addresses the needed skills to succeed in achieving their Black Belt goals. Your instructors are always evaluating your performance.

Health and Safety

All students are required to be medically cleared by the Ripple Effect Medical Director prior to participating in this intense training. You are required to submit the Prep Cycle Physical Form, which can be found on the prep cycle website, to Dr. Johns (RippleEffectMedicalCoach@gmail.com) prior to the first practice and follow any modifications as she deems appropriate.

Prep Cycle Essay

High Brown Belt students are required to submit an essay describing "What Black Belt Means to Me." Plan to discuss trials you have overcome in your Black Belt journey, the lessons you have learned in this process and how you intend to apply what you've learned in the future. Essays should be typed and formatted to be 750 words and **due by 1st practice: Saturday, January 20th** sent via email to prepcycle@rippleeffectmartialarts.com.

Prep Cycle Entrance Exam

All High Brown Belt students are required to attend and pass the Prep Cycle Entrance Exam. Students are expected to know all of their curriculum in order to be accepted to the Prep Cycle program. The Entrance Exam will be Saturday, January 13th, 3:30pm - 5:30pm at the Ripple Effect Johnstown school.

Prep Cycle Trainings

The full High Brown Belt Prep Cycle practice schedule is provided below. Prep Cycle practices will consist of conditioning and curriculum review. Please bring your belt, all sparring gear, all weapons, water bottle, training notebook, and a writing utensil. Prep Cycle practices are designed to detail and fine tune existing curriculum, not to teach new material. Students are responsible for filling any and all knowledge gaps in curriculum (combinations, forms, words of the belt).

We will make every effort to start and end each training session on-time, however there may be times when we must stay late or come in early to meet our training objectives. We may need to schedule additional days of training. This will be done at the instructor's discretion and the cooperation of the student and family are expected. We will communicate any schedule changes as soon as possible. Please respectfully bring schedule change concerns directly to the Prep Cycle Leadership Team.

The High Brown Belt prep cycle students are responsible for cleaning the school at the end of practices. This tradition reinforces humility, diligence, integrity, teamwork and pride in our school. The cleaning activities will start at the end of the scheduled practice time (e.g. for practices ending at 5:00 pm, cleaning will start at 5:00 pm) and students will be dismissed as a team when all cleaning has been completed. Please note that the group will become more efficient at cleaning over time.

Winter 2024 High Brown Belt Prep Cycle Training Schedule					
Date	Time	Location	Notes		
Sat, Jan 13	3:30 - 5:30 pm	Johnstown	Entrance Exam, Full Uniform		
Sat, Jan 20	2:00 - 5:00 pm	Longmont	High Brown Belts ONLY		
Sat, Jan 27	TBD	Broomfield			
Sat, Feb 3	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Johnstown	Conditionals Not Required		
Sat, Feb 10	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Broomfield			
Sat, Feb 17	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Johnstown	Conditionals Not Required		
Sat, Feb 24	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Broomfield			
Sat, Mar 2	TBD	Johnstown	Mid-Cycle Exam, Full Uniform		
Sat, Mar 9	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Broomfield			
Sat, Mar 16	_	_	NO PRACTICE		
Sat, Mar 23	TBD	Broomfield			
Sat, Mar 30	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Johnstown			
Sat, Apr 6	11:00am - 1:00pm	Johnstown	High Brown Belt ONLY Practice		
Sat, Apr 13	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Johnstown			
Sat, Apr 20	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Broomfield	Conditionals Not Required		
Sun, Apr 28	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Johnstown			
Sat, May 4	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Broomfield			

Equipment

Students are responsible for remembering all of their gear for prep cycle trainings. Any additional gear needs will be communicated as soon as possible. If a student is missing a piece of equipment, their grade for that day will be decreased by one letter. Please label all gear with your name.

- 1. Uniform: Ripple Effect t-shirt, belt and pants. Full uniform (Leadership top, pants, and belt) is required for Entrance and Mid Cycle Tests.
- 2. All Weapons: Bo staff, Nunchucks, Kali sticks, Kamas
- 3. All Sparring Gear: head, chest, hands, shin, feet, groin, mouthpiece, and sanitation wipes
- 4. Water Bottle(s) (with cap, no open straws)

- 5. Small snack (no nuts)
- 6. Training Notebook, pen/pencil
- 7. Outdoor practices only: Dress appropriately for the expected weather. Bring running shoes (no clogs or converse-type shoes) and sunscreen/bug spray. Please wear active pants or shorts, your belt, and a Ripple Effect T-Shirt.

Training Attendance Expectations

Excused Absences: High Brown Belt students may have no more than 3 excused absences from the prep cycle trainings to be eligible to test in May. It is encouraged that the student complete more than the minimum required training hours.

Unexcused Absences: Absences will be considered unexcused if a student fails to contact the prep cycle team in writing **within 24 hours** of a scheduled training or if they arrive more than 5 minutes late to practice. If a student has more than 2 unexcused absences, they will be excused from training and moved to the next testing cycle.

If a student misses a prep cycle practice, it is the student's responsibility to ask a teammate for what they missed. Private lessons with instructors are not permitted during prep cycle. Not knowing your curriculum is grounds for dismissal.

Class Attendance Requirements

High Brown Belt students **must** attend an average of 1) one belt rank class per week, 2) one upper belt (Leadership, Red Belt or above) sparring class, and 3) SWAT one lower belt class (3 classes total minimum per week). During lower belt testing weeks, students only need to attend one belt rank class. Students must keep track of all classes attended in their Training Notebook, including the date and type of class. Prep Cycle training sessions are not intended to be a substitution for your regular classes, and your leadership in the school is expected. If you do not meet these requirements, you will not be allowed to test.

Prep Cycle Homework

You will be provided with exercises/curriculum homework to do outside of class/prep cycle practices. Students are responsible for keeping their homework logs in their dedicated Training Notebook.

These exercises are designed to prepare students for the conditioning portion of their Black Belt training and test. Each week students are also required to complete at least one run, increasing distance each week. A running log and weekly exercise logs are provided at the end of this manual and should be **printed out and logged** as students complete each exercise. Students will be asked to show their running and exercise logs during prep cycle trainings. Not completing homework will result in a decreased training grade and is grounds for dismissal.

Students are also responsible for practicing and reviewing curriculum 10-15 minutes per day. The Prep Cycle Team will in some cases assign specific curriculum to review or students should review their general curriculum.

HERO Project

All High Brown Belt students are required to complete a HERO project, where students identify one student in the school who may need additional help to pass their next belt test. The purpose of the HERO project is to further develop leadership skills, including awareness of others and leading practices.

High Brown Belt students are responsible for identifying a student, approaching the student's family to discuss the HERO project, and setting up a time to review and practice their curriculum. Students chosen for the HERO project should be Purple - Brown Belt. We recommend the time spent reviewing curriculum to not exceed 15-20 minutes.

HERO Project Students should be selected during the first half of prep cycle. The HERO Project Form is due at your mid-cycle exam (March 2nd) and will be required for you to test. Details of your HERO project (practice times, struggles and challenges, and your HERO student's progress) are to be included in your Training Notebook.

Volunteer Hours

Students are expected to complete 40 volunteer hours by the time they are testing for their Certified Black Belt. High Brown Belt students are required to complete at least 20 hours by the time they test for their Conditional Black Belts. Volunteer hours include any time spent helping individuals or organizations outside of your family. Volunteer hours can include hours completed at any point since you earned your white belt. Start looking for volunteer opportunities now! A log for volunteer hours can be found in your white student binder or on the prep cycle webpage.

Goal Setting

Students need to set a minimum of 2 goals related to their martial arts training. Goals can include short-term or long-term goals. These goals should be listed on the Entrance Form at the end of this manual. The Entrance Form is due on January 13th (entrance exam). Students should be re-evaluating their goals throughout prep cycle and be ready to discuss them with the prep cycle leadership team when requested.

Training Notebook

All High Brown Belt students are required to maintain a training notebook which must have the following up-to-date information at minimum.

- 1. Written goals that you listed on your Entrance Form
- 2. Log of prep cycle training sessions attendance
- 3. Log of belt rank classes attended (dates)
- 4. Log of upper belt sparring classes attended (leadership, red belt or higher) (dates, class)
- 5. Log of SWAT classes attended (dates, class)
- 6. Printed and completed exercise logs
- 7. HERO project details
- 8. Log of volunteer hours (20 needed)

Future Communication

A calendar of all practices can be found at RippleEffectMartialArts.com/blackbeltprep. This manual, as well as training references will be posted on this site as well. Please check it regularly. While changes to the schedule will be posted online, last minute changes (which will be few) and reminders will be sent out via email. Please sign and submit the Entrance Form and Prep Cycle Physical Form by the Entrance Exam January 13th. Below is a checklist to follow and stay on track as you prepare for your test in May (the checklist does not need to be turned in).

Prep Cycle Requirement Checklist

Task	Due Date	Completed
Read Manual	ASAP	
Appropriate Sparring Pads	ASAP	
Good Running Shoes	ASAP	
Submit Prep Cycle Essay	First practice (January 20th)	
Submit Entrance Form with known absences	Entrance Exam (January 13th)	
Submit Release of Contact Information Consent Form	Entrance Exam (January 13th)	
Submit Prep Cycle Physical Form to Dr. Johns	Entrance Exam (January 13th)	
Set a minimum of 2 personal training goals	Entrance Exam (January 13th)	
Print weekly exercise logs	First practice (January 20th)	
Complete and log all weekly homework	Weekly	
Complete and log all classes attended	Weekly	
Choose Student for HERO Project	Mid-Cycle Test (March 2)	
Complete and log at least 20 Volunteer Hours	by May 10th	

Belt Rank Exercises and Curriculum Requirements

Task	High Brown Belt	Modifications
Push-ups	100	Leg lifts/V-sits
Sit-ups	100	Leg lifts
Squats	100	
Jumping jacks	100	Step-outs
Mountain climbers	100	Bicycles
Alternating Kicks	100	
Alternating Punches	200	
Leg lifts	100	
Hold out sidekick	100 seconds	
Running	6 miles	See instructor for modifications
All Forms H. Gold-H. Brown Belt	х	
All Combinations White- H. Brown Belt	x	
Musical: Might for Right (Exodus)	х	
Bo Staff 1	х	
Nunchuck 1	Х	
Kama 1	х	
Kama 2	х	
Kali Open and Closed	х	
Words of the Belt	х	

Prep Cycle Entrance Form

Please complete and submit this form at the entrance exam on January 13, 2024. The Entrance form should be signed by the student and guardian to acknowledge and agree to these expectations.

Student Name		
Parent(s) Name		
Parent(s) Email		
Student Email (if applicable)		
Dates of Known Absences		
Student training or character development goals (2 minimum)		
Arts for the Winter 2024 High Br	Master Macy and the Instructors at Ripple Cycle. I understand that my/my child's part am willing to accept the direction and instruction Black Belt Test weekend.	icipation in this
X		
Parent Signature	Date	
X		
Student Signature	Date	

Release of Contact Information Consent Form

We <u>highly encourage</u> group work coordinated by students/parents outside of normal Prep Cycle practices. This can be at outside park locations, for example. This form allows you to consent to the sharing of your preferred contact method to only the Winter 2024 High Brown Belt Prep Cycle students/parents to allow for your team to coordinate. We will not share your information with anyone outside of the Winter 2024 High Brown Belt Prep Cycle.

Please submit this form at the Entrance Exam on January 13th, 2024.

 I,, consent to having my contact information be shared with the Winter 2024 High Brown Belt Prep Cycle for use of coordinating outside 					
	times.				
	Parent(s) Email:				
	Student Email (if applicable):				
	Parent Phone number: ()				
	Student Phone number (if applicable): ()				

HERO Project Form

Please bring this completed form to your mid-cycle exam on March 2, 2024

This form is required for your mid-cycle exam.

Student Name:	
HERO Student Name:	
HERO Student Belt Rank:	

Weekly Running Log

Each week, complete at least one run, increasing distance each time. Keep in mind that you should be prepared to run 6 miles by the Black Belt Testing Weekend.

Date	Duration	Distance

Weekly Homework Exercises

You are required to complete homework exercises FIVE days each week, M-F. Homework is to begin the week of Monday, January 22nd.

The following pages include weekly homework exercise logs for each week between the start of the cycle and the Black Belt Immersion week. Each week, you have a list of exercises and will need to complete those exercises for a set amount of seconds. On your weekly log, you should record the date and the number of reps of each exercise that you completed in the given time frame. For items marked with a (*), you will record the number of failures you had during that time frame (for example: how many times did my foot drop or did I lose my balance while holding side kicks OR how many times did I rest my hands on my legs or did I break form while holding a wall sit). There is also a spot to record what curriculum you worked on while reviewing on your own during the week. Please make sure you are taking care of your body and spending time stretching each day BEFORE completing your homework exercises. If you have the time, it's also recommended to stretch afterwards as well. Even just a few minutes of stretching can make a huge difference to your muscles.

Please review the below exercises and take note of any you may be unfamiliar with. You will be given an opportunity to request to see a demonstration of any of these exercises during your first practice. After the first practice, if you do not know how to complete an exercise, please ask a teammate.

Exercise Log Week 1: January 22nd - January 26th

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
Jumping Jacks					
Pushups					
3 Way Leg Lifts					
Squats					
Shoulder Taps (1-1, 2-2)					
Russian Twists (1-1, 2-2)					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					
Curriculum Reviewe	d:				

Exercise Log Week 2: Week of January 29 - February 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Date:						
Jumping Jacks						
Pushups						
3 Way Leg Lifts						
Squats						
Shoulder Taps (1-1, 2-2)						
Russian Twists (1-1, 2-2)						
Rapid Round Kicks Left						
Rapid Round Kicks Right						
Alternating Side Kicks						
*Wall Sits						
Curriculum Reviewed:						

Exercise Log Week 3: February 5 - February 9

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
High Knees (1-1, 2-2)					
Tricep Dips					
Laying Tucks					
Horse Stance with Punches					
Burpees					
V-Sits					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:						

Exercise Log Week 4: February 12 - February 16

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
High Knees (1-1, 2-2)					
Tricep Dips					
Laying Tucks					
Horse Stance with Punches					
Burpees					
V-Sits					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:							

Exercise Log Week 5: February 19 - February 23

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
Jumping Jacks					
Pushups					
3 Way Leg Lifts					
Squats					
Shoulder Taps (1-1, 2-2)					
Russian Twists (1-1, 2-2)					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:						
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Exercise Log Week 6: February 26 - March 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
Jumping Jacks					
Pushups					
3 Way Leg Lifts					
Squats					
Shoulder Taps (1-1, 2-2)					
Russian Twists (1-1, 2-2)					
Rapid Round Kicks Left					
Rapid Round Kicks Right					
Alternating Side Kicks					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:							

Exercise Log Week 7: March 4 - March 8

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
High Knees (1-1, 2-2)					
Tricep Dips					
Laying Tucks					
Horse Stance with Punches					
Burpees					
V-Sits					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:						

Exercise Log Week 8: March 11 - March 15

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
High Knees (1-1, 2-2)					
Tricep Dips					
Laying Tucks					
Horse Stance with Punches					
Burpees					
V-Sits					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:							

Exercise Log Week 9: March 18 - March 22

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
Jumping Jacks					
Pushups					
3 Way Leg Lifts					
Squats					
Shoulder Taps (1-1, 2-2)					
Russian Twists (1-1, 2-2)					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:							

Exercise Log Week 10: March 25 - March 29

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
Jumping Jacks					
Pushups					
3 Way Leg Lifts					
Squats					
Shoulder Taps (1-1, 2-2)					
Russian Twists (1-1, 2-2)					
Rapid Round Kicks Left					
Rapid Round Kicks Right					
Alternating Side Kicks					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:						

Exercise Log Week 11: April 1 - April 5

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
High Knees (1-1, 2-2)					
Tricep Dips					
Laying Tucks					
Horse Stance with Punches					
Burpees					
V-Sits					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:						

Exercise Log Week 12: April 8 - 12

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
High Knees (1-1, 2-2)					
Tricep Dips					
Laying Tucks					
Horse Stance with Punches					
Burpees					
V-Sits					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Exercise Log Week 13: April 15 - April 19

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
Jumping Jacks					
Pushups					
3 Way Leg Lifts					
Squats					
Shoulder Taps (1-1, 2-2)					
Russian Twists (1-1, 2-2)					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewed:	

Exercise Log Week 14: April 22 - 26

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
Jumping Jacks					
Pushups					
3 Way Leg Lifts					
Squats					
Shoulder Taps (1-1, 2-2)					
Russian Twists (1-1, 2-2)					
Rapid Round Kicks Left					
Rapid Round Kicks Right					
Alternating Side Kicks					
*Wall Sits					

Curriculum Reviewe	ed:		

Exercise Log Week 15: April 29 - May 3

Perform each exercise for 60 seconds each. Record the date and the number of reps you complete each time.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Date:					
High Knees (1-1, 2-2)					
Tricep Dips					
Laying Tucks					
Horse Stance with Punches					
Burpees					
V-Sits					
Alternating Front Kicks					
*Hold Out Side Kick Left					
*Hold Out Side Kick Right					
*Wall Sits					

Exercise Log Week 16: May 6 - May 10

Curriculum Reviewed:

Perform each exercise for 100 seconds each. Record the date and the number of reps you complete. Compare this week to your first week of exercises to see the growth you have made this cycle. Way to Go! Remember to take care of and fuel your body this week. You got this!

Date:	
Jumping Jacks	
Pushups	
3 Way Leg Lifts	
Squats	
Shoulder Taps (1-1, 2-2)	
Russian Twists (1-1, 2-2)	
Rapid Round Kicks Left	
Rapid Round Kicks Right	
Alternating Side Kicks	
Alternating Front Kicks	
*Hold Out Side Kick Left	
*Hold Out Side Kick Right	
*Wall Sits	

Curriculum Reviewed:			