

Andrew Freund

US Sumo Federation Trustee (2008 - present)

US Sumo Open Life Member #4

Andrew started working in Japan over 20 years ago. During his time there in the early 90s, he practiced martial arts, and also began to follow sumo. In 1997, back in California, he began sumo training, and soon established the California Sumo Association (CSA). From 2001 -- 2010, CSA has produced all 10 US Sumo Open tournaments, with over 300 competitors from 25 countries. These athletes include many National and World Sumo Champions, and special guests have included 8 retired "rikishi" (pro sumo wrestlers), 14 times all together, featuring superstars like Konishiki, Akebono, and Musashimaru.

Andrew has also brought over several World Sumo Champions long-term, who have been leading CSA practices for most of the past 12 years. Andrew has coordinated and coached over 500 sumo practices, with more than 400 participants over these dozen years.

Andrew has also worked closely with Grand Sumo, and served as house announcer for the 2005 Grand Sumo Las Vegas (co-announcer with Konishiki) and for the 2008 Grand Sumo Tournament Los Angeles. He also served in several capacities with professional sumo at these events -- marketing, media interviews, interpreting, and more.

Andrew has been actively practicing sumo for the past 13 years, and competes regularly in local, national, and international tournaments.