

Below is an attempt to address some of the more frequently asked questions. But if you have any other questions or need clarification, feel free to contact me on my cell at 239-464-5039 or e-mail anytime at naplesikenobo@gmail.com.

1. Why do we have to sign up in advance for our lessons by Oct. 1?

We all need to plan in advance and Ikenobo Naples is no different. We have to rent the lesson space well in advance. We are lucky to have space for our lessons that is affordable at about \$100 per occasion, centrally located for everyone in the greater Naples area, easily accessible (no stairs) with floors that can take spills and floral material droppings! If we don't have advanced reservations for the lessons, then we would cancel our lesson space and save the rental fee. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the space due to a lack of registrations on occasion. Then too, we have also had record registrations at times with our maximum # of students. You never know!

2. Can I sign up for lessons during the season after Oct. 1?

Yes, you can, but we limit our classes to 9 students and our January, February and March classes usually sell out. We also must order our floral material 10-14 days in advance of class. You are welcome to contact us to see if there is room for you and we are usually able to accommodate you.

3. What do I get for my lesson fee?

You will take home two arrangements that you will want to display in your home and enjoy for at least a week. You will also get two lesson credits towards any certificates. In many cases, we also offer the opportunity to make a "bonus arrangement with materials that are leftover or brought in by students.

4. What do I need to bring to class?

Signing up for Ikenobo lessons is not different than any other arts course, which requires that you make an investment in supplies. If you were taking an art course you would need to buy paints, brushes, canvas, easel etc. In Ikenobo, you need suitable containers, kenzans (pin frogs), pebbles, floral scissors and some books. We do our best to make these types of things available to you at a variety of price points to meet your budget. Please look at our website (www.ikenobonaples.com) and go to the "Resources and Links" page and click on the menu item "What you need to know and bring to class". That document gives you a list of basic items to bring to class, **including your lunch or a snack!** Also be sure to review the details provided for every lesson as we often ask that you bring some type of material to the lesson. Most of these items are readily available in our area gardens.

5. What is your refund policy?

We generally do not offer refunds for lessons that are missed. This is no different from most other types of lectures or lessons that you might reserve in advance. Our lessons are provided by highly qualified Ikenobo students/professors who have studied for years and travelled extensively all over the U.S. as well as to Japan to bring you the latest and best Ikenobo

teachings. We have expenses such as rent and other fixed costs that are paid for through our lesson revenues. On occasion, the board has agreed to extend a refund for special circumstances such as a serious illness when we have sufficient notice (e.g., have not placed our flower order).

6. Do I need to be a member of Ikenobo Ikebana Naples or of Ikebana International to take lessons?

The **Ikenobo** Ikebana Naples chapter does not require that you become a member for the first year (November - April). If you want to continue taking lessons with us after the first season, we do **require** that you become a member of our chapter and our dues are currently \$50 a year (collected in January of each year). The local **Ikebana** International chapter (#160) does not require you to be a member in order to take lessons from any of the Ikebana schools. However, to take part in the exhibit in February of every year, you must be a member of Ikebana International #160 in Naples. Most of us eventually become members of both organizations. If you are confused as to the difference between Ikenobo and Ikebana, you are not alone, just call any board member for clarification.

7. I'm really new at this, don't you have beginner lessons?

We have all been beginners and we all need practice on the basics. However, at this time, we no longer offer beginner lessons. We find it best to integrate new students with students that have some experience. That way we learn and help each other. As with any art, there is a learning curve, so come with an open mind and a smile and you will make some great new friends with flowers, Ikenobo and with us. We have all been in your shoes!

8. Should I sign up for the Visiting Professor workshop - sounds advanced to me.

In a word, absolutely. This will be a wonderful experience filled with learning and laughs. It is a great value and all levels of experience are encouraged to register from brand new students to the very advanced. Come join in the fun.

Again, if I can answer any other questions about our lessons, feel free to contact me or any other board member (see directory on our website, www.ikenobonaples.com, for contact details). We all look forward to seeing you in class this coming season. We really do have a lot of fun learning this art form together.

Stephanie English
President
Ikebana Ikenobo Naples