



## Mark your calendars! 2020 Training and Testing Dates

<b>Feb 27<sup>th</sup></b> – Axe Taekwon-Do Testing	<b>Aug 27<sup>th</sup></b> – Axe Taekwon-Do Testing
<b>Mar 21<sup>st</sup></b> – Maestas Taekwon-Do Tournament – Arvada, CO	<b>Sep</b> – Casper Taekwon-Do Tournament – Casper, WY
<b>Apr 18<sup>th</sup></b> – <i>Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament – Offutt YC</i>	<b>Sep 26<sup>th</sup></b> – Ground Tactics Course – Harrisburg, MO
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b> – World Camp Balance \$300 due	<b>Oct 25<sup>th</sup></b> – Sereff TKD Tournament – Broomfield, CO
<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup></b> – Referee Seminar/Promotion – Harrisburg, MO	<b>Nov 19<sup>th</sup></b> - Axe Taekwon-Do Testing
<b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b> – Axe Taekwon-Do Testing	<b>Nov 26<sup>th</sup></b> – No Class Thanksgiving
<b>Jun 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup></b> – Sereff World Camp 2020 – Colorado	<b>Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Dec 31<sup>st</sup></b> – Axe Taekwon-Do Close Holiday
<b>Aug</b> – Kirksville Taekwon-Do Tournament – Kirksville, MO	<b>Jan 5<sup>th</sup></b> – Return from Break

### Welcome Back Sr. Master Todd



Welcome to 2020 and another year of Taekwon-Do. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work during 2019. As you continue your journey in this New Year, I hope you can rededicate

your efforts to Axe Taekwon-Do. It is time to start working hard to prepare for all the events we have listed above. Please ensure you add the events to your personal calendar. As you can see, there are numerous opportunities to strengthen your skills in Taekwon-Do and train with other students in the USTF. Remember all black belts have to attend at least one seminar per year to obtain their required 8 hours of continuing education. Also, the testing dates listed are tentative. We have been holding promotion testing events on class nights but we may hold a black belt testing or two on a weekend depending on the number of students testing and the ranks involved.

### Axe Taekwon-Do Holiday Party Chili Winner – 2019

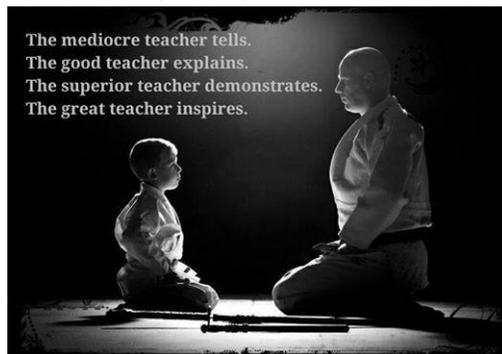


Thank you to all who attended our annual Holiday party and for those who submitted chili for the contest. Sr. Master Todd won the contest this year. All of the chili entries were outstanding and we appreciate everyone participating.

### Goals in 2020

As a group, we have several goals for Axe Taekwon-Do in 2020. The first goal as always is to increase the attendance of our current students. Remember, the minimum you can attend to be considered promotion eligible is two classes per week. We offer six classes per week. The more classes that you attend, the better you will become in Taekwon-Do. Minimum attendance will

equal a maximum waiting time to test for a new rank and progress in Taekwon-Do. The second goal is to increase the number of total students at Axe Taekwon-Do.



### News from USTF Headquarters

Testing fees for color or black belt will not change for 2020. The USTF will continue to offer the family discount for two or more students from the same family testing to 1st degree black belt at the same time. Please contact Sr. Master Todd for details.

The USTF will continue to offer the Referee, Ho Sin Sul, Ground Fighting, Knife and Weapons, Technical, Breaking, and Step Sparring seminars for 2020. The cost for these seminars is \$75 for initial and \$50 for a refresher.

### Authorized Seminar Instructors for 2020:

- **Referee Seminar:** Grand Master Steadman, CO (Head of the Program); Sr. Master Cope, MO; Sr. Master Todd, NE; Sr. Master Casco, HI; Sr. Master Mason, WA; Master Moormeier, FL; Master Williams, AK; Master Sisco, WY and Master Bauman, WI.
- **USTF Basic Ho Sin Sul Seminar:** Sr. Master Hannon, KS (Head of the Program); Master Stoppani, WA; Mr. Giese, WY; and Mr. Rouse, KS.

- **USTF Ground Fighting Defense Seminar:** Sr. Master Hannon, KS (Head of the Program); Grand Master Weiss, IL; Master Stoppani, WA; Mr. Giese, WY; and Mr. Rouse, KS.
- **USTF Knife and Weapons Seminar:** Sr. Master Hannon, KS (Head of the Program); Grand Master Weiss, IL; Master Stoppani, WY; Mr. Giese, WY; and Mr. Rouse, KS.
- **USTF Technical Course:** Grand Master Winegar, CO.
- **USTF Breaking Seminar:** Sr. Master Todd, NE (Head of the Program).
- **USTF Step Sparring Seminar:** Master Pettijohn, CO; and Master Bushor, NE.

### USTF Initial & Annual Membership Fees

It is time again for the Annual USTF Maintenance Fees. The Initial Fee for USTF first time memberships is **\$75.00**. The Annual USTF Maintenance Fees are determined each year and for 2020, the fees are **\$75.00**. This fee is due no later than **Thursday, February 27th**, payable to Master Bushor. These fees allow the USTF to operate a full-time office. In order to continue to help our Taekwon-Do families, the following discounts will apply:

#### Family discounts

- 1st family member is \$75.00
- 2nd family member is \$50.00
- 3rd family member is \$35.00
- 4th family member is Free

As the USTF Nebraska State Director, Master Bushor is responsible for collecting, tracking and working this program. All students Green Belt and above must be members of the USTF. We collect your initial fee when you test, typically for Green belt, however, you can join sooner if you wish. The appropriate forms and fees are forwarded to the Headquarters in Colorado. We pass out the USTF and ITF patches and membership cards when they are returned to Master Bushor. Students who recently joined the USTF (since October) will **not** need to pay the maintenance fee for this year. If you have any questions please ask Master Bushor - [kbushor@cox.net](mailto:kbushor@cox.net).

### Maestas TKD Tournament March 21<sup>st</sup> – Arvada, Colorado



Axe Taekwon-Do will be traveling to Arvada, Colorado for the Maestas Taekwon-Do Tournament. The

tournament will be held on **Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Apex Recreation Center** in Arvada. We typically travel as a group but you are always welcome to travel on your own. **We will depart the Youth Center on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and return on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.** If you are traveling with the group please plan on a two-night motel stay. We can provide transportation and will arrange the rooms, but again you can handle this on your own if you wish. Please coordinate with Sr. Master Todd. We will begin collecting information in class. The cost for the event is \$55.00. The tournament will include sparring, patterns and power breaking. We can also enter one junior and one senior team for team breaking and team patterns. We will coordinate all of this for you. The registration forms will be available on [www.axetkd.com](http://www.axetkd.com) and they will be sent home with all students. This is the first opportunity for Taekwon-Do competition in 2020.

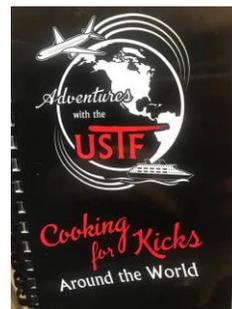
### USTF Referee Seminar & Promotions

#### Regional Event

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Harrisburg, Missouri**

Harrisburg Taekwon-Do will be hosting the USTF Referee Seminar in Harrisburg, Missouri on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The seminar will be taught by Sr. Master Todd. The seminar typically runs from 9 am – 5 pm. If you are eligible for initial certification, upgrade or refresher this event is fairly close to us. The cost is \$75 for initial certification and \$50 for a refresher. All red stripes and above are eligible to certify. The flyer and information will be available at [www.axetkd.com](http://www.axetkd.com). Also at this event, Grand Master Sereff will be in attendance to promote Sr. Master Cope and Sr. Master Winn to Grand Master, 9<sup>th</sup> degree black belt. Since this event is a close drive for us, there will be a variety of options for travel. For example, drive down Fri, return Sat; drive down and back on Saturday; drive down Sat return Sun, and drive down Fri return Sun. We can arrange or provide information on travel and/or motels. Please coordinate with Sr. Master Todd. We will begin collecting information in class.

### USTF Cookbooks



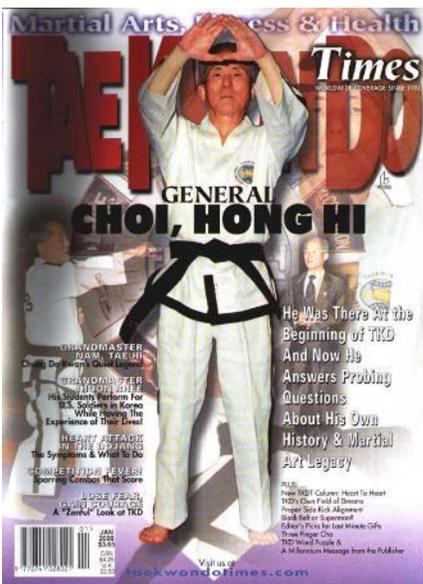
The USTF, Adventures Around the World Cooking for kicks cookbook is complete and ready for order. The cost is \$10.00 per book. Proceeds will be used to pay for scholarships for needy and deserving students to Sereff World Camp, 2020. Please place your order with Sr. Master Todd.

**Sereff World Camp**  
**June 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Payment due to Sr. Master Todd by Dec 15, 2019**  
**With the advance, permission payment can extend to**  
**Mid-January**



Thank you to all for the outstanding support and interest in attending the Sereff World Camp in June. The following students from Axe Taekwon-Do are attending: Sr. Master Todd, Master Bushor, Ms. Bowling, Mrs. Ragone, Mr. Toppi, Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Buckley, Ms. Ragone, Ms. Buckley, Ms. Grant, Mr. Ostrander, Ms. Ostrander, Mr. Garber, A., Mr. Garber, D., Ms. Garber, Ms. Linder, Ms. Loftus and Ms. Lewis. **We are at 18 students.** We do have room for more, **we would love to make it an even 20!** **Contact Sr. Master Todd ASAP if interested.**



**General Choi Hong Hi**

**A Taekwon-Do History Lesson Part II**  
**Sr. Master Todd**

In a continuation of the lengthy interview from the Taekwon-Do Times magazine dated January 2000. The author Dr. He-Young Kimm stated there could be

mistakes since the original interview was conducted in Korean. This interview was conducted on August 1, 1998, and again from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 1, 1999. It will be shown in the question/answer format. Some of this you may have read before, but I still find it interesting.

**Dr. Kimm:** General Choi, to ask you a difficult and personal question, what was the reason behind your exile from Korea?

**Gen Choi:** General Park, Chung Hee's power in Korea was solidified after he was elected for his second term as President of Korea. The political climate in Korea led me to believe that if I stayed and did not support his policies, I would either be placed under house arrest or thrown in jail. I had seen what he did to his political opponents. Under those circumstances, I would not have the freedom to promote Taekwon-Do or run the International Taekwon-Do Federation. And Taekwon-Do was my life. After the election President Park sent Kim, Yun Yong, and the Deputy Director of the Presidential Protective Force, to take over the Korea Taekwon-Do Association. Shortly thereafter, the Korea Taekwon-Do Association began to interfere in the affairs of the International Taekwon-Do Federation. In August of 1971, I presided over a meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Taekwon-Do Federation. In this meeting, I said, "My dear members, the International Taekwon-Do Federation's President is a Korean, but this does not mean that the ITF should be controlled or directed by the Korean government. It is an international organization that can let no country influence our decisions through undue pressure." Afterward, I began to make plans to leave Korea in secret.

**Dr. Kimm:** Was there any particular reason you chose to go into exile in Canada?

**Gen Choi:** Yes, First, Canada can be considered to be a Western Bloc Country, but she maintains a neutral position in international affairs. Through Canada, I felt that I would be able to freely travel to Western and Eastern Bloc and Third World nations to spread the art of Taekwon-Do. Second, geographically Canada is centrally located between Europe and South America, so it is easy to travel to these continents. The third reason is that my dear student, Park, Jong Soo had already established a strong Taekwon-Do foundation in Canada and was operating a very successful school. This made it easier to move the Headquarters of the International Taekwon-Do Federation to Canada. Finally, I knew that the Olympic Games were to be held in Montreal, Canada in 1976. With a base in Canada, I felt it would be a good opportunity to promote Taekwon-Do as an Olympic event.

**Dr. Kimm:** What was the reaction of the Korean Government when they learned that a retired two-star general was no in exile in Canada?

**Gen Choi:** President Park sent many prominent members of the National Assembly to try to persuade me to return to Korea. They told me that the President had promised me a cabinet post, such as the Secretary of Foreign Affairs or an ambassadorship to the country of my choosing. After I rebuffed these initial attempts, he sent many close friends to try to persuade me to return. When that failed, the President kidnapped my son and daughter and threatened their lives if I did not return. My response to them was, "I choose Taekwon-Do over my son." President Park, knowing my character and determination, ordered Kim, Un Yong to establish the World Taekwon-Do Federation to fight against the International Taekwon-Do Federation.

**Dr. Kimm:** What kind of hardships have you faced after 25 years in exile?

**Gen Choi:** No one can know how lonely the life is of an exiled man. I don't have money or the type of friends who I can laugh or joke with. But I never regret my decision to leave Korea because I have had the opportunity to spread Taekwon-Do throughout the world. And I taught Taekwon-Do without regard to race, religion, nationality, or ideology. In this respect, I am the happiest man in the world, and I am proud to have left my footprint in this world. Spreading Taekwon-Do throughout the world is a very challenging job. I travel constantly giving seminars, leading demonstrations and presiding over championships. And I have done this despite the threats on my life from the Korean Central Intelligence Officers and Korean Diplomatic Personnel. Agents of the Korean government have told airport officials that I was the head of a terrorist organization, which was trying to kill the Korean President, and should be denied entry into the country. The pressured owners of gymnasiums into denying us facilities for seminars. There were many times we had to give seminars in public parks. They have sent some of my old students to try to kidnap me on many occasions. And there have been attempts on my life by armed assassins. KCIA officers would threaten the parents of ITF instructors that their passports would not be renewed if they continued to associate with me. So, gradually over time, most of my overseas instructors left me. The pressure I received from the Korean government made me stronger than ever and I put all of my energy into developing new Taekwon-Do techniques. I teach the same system of Taekwon-Do throughout the world.

**Dr. Kimm:** General, you organized the First World Taekwon-Do Championship in Montreal, Canada, in 1974. Does the championship continue today?

**Gen Choi:** Yes, in September of 1999, the 11<sup>th</sup> Championship will be held in Argentina. By 1969, the ITF had thirty member countries. I had planned for the first world championships to be held in Korea, but it never materialized. By the time I arrived in Canada, I found that I had more freedom to plan and organize a championship. The first one was held in Canada, followed by

championships held in the United States, Argentina, Scotland, Greece, Hungary, Canada again, North Korea, Malaysia, Russia, and Argentina again this year. We have sparring, pattern and breaking competitions in the World Championships.

**Dr. Kimm:** I have heard from many people that you were involved in political activity against the Korean government. Would you like to comment on these accusations?

**Gen Choi:** People need to understand the difference between anti-government and anti-dictator. I fought against the dictator Park, Chung Hee and his followers. I knew Park, Chung Hee better than anyone else. I did not believe that Park was qualified to be president and I never thought Park was a legitimate president. He graduated from the Japanese Military Academy and fought against the Korean Revolutionary Army during the occupation. After the liberation of Korea from Japan, he joined the Korean Army and then staged an insurrection against the Korean Government. During his court-martial, I was one of the judges who sentenced him to death. I participated in the coup d'état with him because I believed the movement was led by General Chang, Do Young the Commander in Chief of the Army. But Park had merely used the General's name and deceived many of the generals who participated in the coup d'état. General Chang and I were among the judges who had earlier participated in Park's court-martial. Faced with opposition to his Presidential candidacy from many generals, including myself, Park forced us to retire from the Army and sent General Chang into exile in the United States. After Park became president, he changed the Korean Constitution so many times he virtually became "President for Life." And using the KCIA, he strictly controlled the freedoms of the Korean people. Eventually the political climate forced me into exile in Canada. In Canada, I tried to inform the world of what was happening in Korea. And through the media, I urged the Korean military to overthrow Dictator Park and restore democracy in Korea. Park's dictatorship lasted 18 years from 1961 to 1979. But what happened? Park lost his life trusting his KCI director, General Kim Jae Kyu. The death of Park did not end the totalitarian government. General Chun Doo Hwan and General Ro, Tae Woo took power and continued the military government until the beginning of 1990. Under these conditions, I continued to fight against dictatorship, not against the Korean people.

More information will be shared in future months including:

- Visiting North Korea for TKD demonstration in the 80s
- Introducing TKD to Japan
- Spreading TKD through the world

More to share in future newsletters.