



**Birthdays in October**



Happy birthday to the following students of Axe Taekwon-Do: Mr. Toppi, Mr. Matos, Kiel, Mr. May, C., Mr. Johnson, J. Please email Grand Master Todd at [ustfneb@cox.net](mailto:ustfneb@cox.net) if your name is not listed.

**Promotion Party—October 12th—Grand Master Todd**

On Saturday, October 12th we met at Pizza Ranch to celebrate the promotion of Grand Master Todd by the USTF. We had a nice lunch and watched a tribute video. Several gifts were presented from the class. I would like to thank all that made this possible. Remember without loyal students this would mean nothing to me I appreciate everyone and their kind comments.



**Promotion Testing—November 18th**

On Thursday, November 18th we conduct the next promotion testing for Axe Taekwon-Do at the Youth Center. We will pass out the test forms for those eligible within the next few classes.

**No Classes—November 11th & November 25th**

Axe Taekwon-Do will be closed on Thursday, November 11th. The Youth Center is closed for Veterans Day. We will also be closed on Thursday, November 25th. The Youth Center is closed for Thanksgiving

**Holiday Black Belt Luncheon**

Our annual Axe Taekwon-Do Black Belt luncheon will be held on a Saturday in December. Typically we hold this event at the Pizza Ranch in Papillion. All active black belts are expected to attend. Axe Taekwon-Do provides the lunch and we discuss plans for 2022. *I am still soliciting a volunteer to schedule this event.*

**Annual Class Holiday Party—December 21st, 2021**

On Tuesday, December 21st, Axe Taekwon-Do will host our Annual Class Holiday Party. The party will run from 530 pm to 8 pm at the Youth Center. We will have our Annual chili contest and the winner will receive a free month of classes. We hope to see plenty of entries this year. Once the winner has been announced all chili entries will be shared as part of a “pot luck” meal. *I am looking for a few volunteers to run this event.*

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**Calendar Dates**

- Nov 11th—Youth Center Closed—Veterans Day
- Nov 18th—Axe Taekwon-Do Testing
- Nov 25th—Youth Center Closed—Thanksgiving
- Dec 15th—Deposit for Summer Camp Due—\$250
- Dec ?? - Black Belt Holiday Luncheon
- Dec 21st—Annual Class Holiday Party



***Holiday Break —December 28th—January 3rd***

During this time, we encourage all members of Axe Taekwon-Do to take a break and enjoy some family time during the holidays. We will return to training on January 4th, 2022. Please take this time to rest and return motivated to train even harder in 2022.

***Sereff World Taekwon-Do Camp—June 19th—24th, 2022—Grand Master Todd***



In 2022, there will be a Sereff World Camp. I recently emailed the Camp brochure and will do it again. For your planning, it will be held June 19-24, 2022. This is a great summer camp and is a full week immersed in Taekwon-Do while training in the mountains of Colorado. Our goal as a class is to send at least a dozen students to every camp. This camp was held every other year but due to the COVID pandemic, we missed a cycle. We will be discussing more in-depth in class and I will schedule a meeting for any parents with questions about this event. If you only pick one event to attend in 2021, this would be it!

The will cost \$595 per student, but this covers a full week of training, your room, and all your meals. You would not need any other money for the entire week!

**The deposit of \$250 is due December 15th.** The balance of \$345 is due by May 1st. I will be one of the instructors at this event. The space is limited to the first 120 students that register for this camp.

Remember black belts need 8 hours of continuing education every year and this will more than satisfy your requirement. During the camp, we spend time hiking, standing in a waterfall, and enjoying the peaceful scenery. Students travel to Snow Mountain Ranch in the Rocky Mountains for an entire week. All students, 13 years and older, are invited to attend. Students under 13 may be permitted to go, but only with the written approval of me as required by the USTF. All training by the highest-ranked instructors in the USTF.





*Sereff World Taekwon-Do Camp—Articles provided from students to encourage camp participation*

**Mrs. Ragone, 5th dan:** To my fellow students and parents, I have been with Axe Taekwon-Do for about 15 years. Originally, my son, Dawsen, was the only student in Taekwon-Do. We put him in class to learn how to stand up for himself and have more confidence when speaking to others. Within the year, my other two children (Graysen & Ashleigh) and I joined class as well. We have never regretted our decision to join class nor have we ever regretted our decision to travel.

General Choi, the founder of Taekwon-Do, encouraged students to travel in order to build one's moral culture. My family and I have attended USTF events in Colorado, Wyoming, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Washington. By traveling with Axe, my children and I have met and built relationships with people from all over the world. World Camp is definitely one of our favorite events. It is a week-long trip into the mountains where we train with other students from all over. The location, Snow Mountain, is beautiful and takes us away from daily stressors and into nature with amazing people. Being immersed in TKD for the week is where I really saw my children grow in etiquette, independence, and social skills. Grand Master Sereff schedules daily activities like hiking up to a waterfall, riding horses through the mountains, jumping into a lake, and training in the park. In the evening, there is an opportunity for games and team challenges.

On the Axe Taekwon-Do Facebook page there are many pictures of past camps and other USTF events. I encourage you to take a look at them and consider attending any of the opportunities in 2022-especially camp! YOU won't be disappointed! I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about Taekwon-Do travelling to tournaments, courses, or camps.

**Mrs. Buckley, S., 4th dan:** Sereff World Camp is a great experience. It's an opportunity to learn from the most senior instructors in the USTF. These senior instructors have many years of experience and a great amount of guidance to offer. Through the years, I learned that someone may present something in just a little bit different way from the way my own instructors teach. This contrasting method isn't any better but another way to look at presenting instruction. The different method helped me to finally understand a technique that troubled me. There are many opportunities to hear different instructions from the various instructors at camp. Also, different instructors may share a training or stretching tip you didn't know that proves helpful in your practice. Taekwon-Do is a martial art you learn your entire lifetime. The experiences at World Camp provides so many great options to continue your learning.

Parts of camp may challenge you. Use those challenges to make yourself a better person and martial artist. My challenge was the hike to the waterfalls. It's a slight incline but difficult for me at the altitude of about 9,100 feet. I made it to the top and was able to stand under the waterfalls. It's an awesome moment to stand under the roaring, cold, refreshing water as it rushes down on you as you strike a Taekwon-Do pose for a photo. This moment is a highlight of camp.

*Sereff World Taekwon-Do Camp—Articles provided from students to encourage camp participation (continued)*

We do more than just train at camp. We also have a number of fun activities such as the opening games, campfire songs and entertainment including s'mores, seniors sharing their Taekwon-Do history and stories, training (and splashing) in the lake, jumping in the lake, the piñata, to standing under the waterfalls. This year the Australians taught the juniors how to throw boomerangs.

Students under the age of 13 may attend camp with Senior Master Todd's permission. Whether your child is under 13 or you have an older student, a week at camp may be their first time away from home by themselves. Fear not, parents. The Axe students at camp will ensure they are well taken care of and help them through any concerns they may have. Also, everyone at camp helps each other. A week at camp is a tremendous opportunity for young people to gain some independence and self-confidence and begin to mature into responsible young adults.

I have attended the last two camps. I enjoyed this year so much more than my first one. I think the reason is because of the people. Last time I met so many new people and they became friends. This year I met up with those good friends and made many more new friends. For me, making new friends from around the country and the world is the best part of Sereff World Camp.

*Article Taekwon-Do Family—Ms. Grant, 3rd dan:* For any of our newer students who may not know, I have experienced three ACL injuries and surgeries. The most recent has really taken a toll on my knees and to say that it's discouraging would be the biggest understatement. For me to be in my late twenties but already have so many limitations is very much a mental black cloud.

What really lifts my spirits is our instructor and the assistant instructors. Grand Master Todd doesn't just have me sit out stuff. Whenever we are lined up doing kicks or things I can't do, he always comes up with something that I can do but still challenges me. Whether it's kicks in slow motion (which is a great exercise!) or varying hand techniques that I don't normally do, or simply changing the technique from air to ground, he always comes up with ways for me to still feel challenged in class and still participate. He knows when he can push us, but also when to push in a different way than the rest of the class when we need it. He's patient with me on the days when my knees just can't seem to hold me up. Master Bushor, Ms. Bowing, and the other instructors in our class are also understanding and even have to remind me sometimes to take it easy.

For our newer students, let me tell you: you could not have picked a better martial arts family to join. Grand Master Todd and the instructors at Axe Taekwon-Do are not in this for money or status, but to teach and help students grow. There is never a point that you are done training, as Grand Master Todd shows us that even at 9<sup>th</sup> Dan. You learn how to defend yourself, and you gain a wonderful martial arts family. If I had the chance to go to a more "prestigious" martial arts school or one for an art that was so called "cooler", I wouldn't. You learn practical and real self defense from Grand Master Todd, and you gain an amazing new family that helps you grow.

## Axe Taekwon-Do

Axe Taekwon-Do was formed in 2004 at Offutt Air Force Base. Grand Master Todd and Master Bushor formed Axe Taekwon-Do which is an authorized school under the United States Taekwon-Do Federation.

USTF Taekwon-Do has been active at Offutt Air Force Base, Youth Center since 1988. The classes were originally founded by Mr. Vince Dowd, a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree black belt from Colorado. In 1989, the late Sr. Master Gary Meek took over the classes and renamed the school Meek's International Taekwon-Do. In 2004, the school was renamed Axe Taekwon-Do and Grand Master Todd and Master Bushor took over the teaching.

Classes are taught on Tuesday & Thursday.

Beginners: 5:30—6:30 pm

Advanced: 6:30-8:00 pm

Offutt Air Force Base Youth Center  
Building 5085  
Bellevue, Nebraska  
Phone: 402-294-5152

Direct Contact Instructors

Grand Master Todd  
Phone: 402-650-4399  
Email: ustfneb@cox.net

Master Bushor  
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PHOTO BY GRAND MASTER RENEE' SEREFF

From left, Grand Master F.M. Van Hecke, Senior Grand Master Charles E. Sereff, Grand Master Dan Griffin and Grand Master Ricky Todd.

# Local taekwon-do instructor promoted to grand master

**SHARON BUCKLEY, MAJ., USAF (RET)**  
IV Dan, USTF

Ricky Todd, Senior Instructor at Axe Taekwon-Do, was recently promoted to Grand Master, IX Dan (9th degree black belt). This is the highest rank you can attain in Taekwon-Do. Grand Master Todd became the 20th person promoted to this rank, with 12 still being active. Grand Master Todd was promoted during a ceremony at the United States Taekwon-Do Federation (USTF) Headquarters in Broomfield, Colorado by Senior Grand Master Charles E. Sereff, IX Dan, Founder and President Emeritus of the USTF. Senior Grand Master Sereff also promoted Grand Master F.M. Van Hecke and Grand Master Dan Griffin to their new ranks on the same day.

Grand Master Todd is an internationally certified instructor and began his training in 1983 and trained continuously since then. Wherever his career in the United States Air Force took him, Grand Master Todd continued training and started Taekwon-Do schools in Kansas, Missouri, California, Nebraska, and in the country of Turkey. Grand Master Todd is currently USTF Region 2 Director responsible for Taekwon-Do operations in Nebraska, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, South Dakota and North Dakota. He has held the offices of the USTF State Director for Kansas and Nebraska and the Armed Forces Director.

**“While this is the highest rank you can attain in Taekwon-Do this is nowhere near the end of my martial arts journey. I will continue to teach Taekwon-Do as long as I have loyal and dedicated students.”**

**Ricky Todd,**  
Senior Instructor at Axe Taekwon-Do

“I was happy to reach the rank of 7th degree black belt,” said Grand Master Todd. “The promotions to 8th degree black belt and now 9th degree black belt are surreal. I take more pride in being a good student of Taekwon-Do and loyal to the teachings of Sr. Grand Master Sereff, the founder of the USTF, and Gen. Choi, the founder of Taekwon-Do. While this is the highest rank you can attain in Taekwon-Do this is nowhere near the end of my martial arts journey. I will continue to teach Taekwon-Do as long as I have loyal and dedicated students.”

Axe Taekwon-Do meets Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Offutt Air Force Base Youth Center, 2502 Hruska Blvd., Bellevue. For more information, see [www.axetkd.com](http://www.axetkd.com).