

Happy Birthday - February

We want to wish a very Happy Birthday to the following members of the Axe Taekwon-Do family:



- Feb 4: Ms. Chamberlin
- Feb 7: Mr. Jensen (moved to Alaska)
- Feb 9: Mr. Johnson, W. (moved to Washington)
- Feb 15: Ms. Taylor
- Feb 28: Mr. Cordova

Is your birthday missing? If so, please email axetkd@gmail.com so we can be sure to celebrate!

Annual Black Belt—Luncheon

We held our annual luncheon on February 7 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the Pizza Ranch in Council Bluffs. We had a few issues with the reservation, but that was not the point of the luncheon. I appreciate when there are issues, that our black belts remain respectful and do not complain, that reflects the character and discipline that black belts must display. We have an exciting 2026 coming for all student of Axe Taekwon-Do!

USTF Annual Maintenance Membership Fee - due no later than March 30th

The annual USTF maintenance fee has arrived for 2026. The annual fee is \$75.00 for an individual. The fees are due no later than March 30th. I will send out an email to all on this subject that provides what information we need and how to pay. Students who joined the USTF in 2025 during the October- December timeframe do not pay the maintenance fee for 2026. Family discounts are as follows.

Family Discounts:

- \$75.00 for the first family member
- \$50.00 for the second family member
- \$35.00 for the third family member
- \$25.00 for the fourth family member

Promotion Testing March 3

There will be a **combined color belt and black belt promotion testing on Tuesday, March 3rd, beginning at 545 pm.** I am requesting **all students to attend this test (even if you are not testing).** All black belts that are not physically participating will be dressed in the USTF Blue uniform. Please remember that our tests are **closed events**, meaning no outside black belts are invited. However, students may invite their families to attend and support them. I will pass out the forms for testing during the 2/17 and 2/19 classes. **Testing for black belt rank:** 1st Degree Black Belt: Mr. DeVries



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Calendar Dates 2026

- Feb 21: USTF Knife & Weapons Seminar, Acworth, Georgia
- Mar 3: Black & Color Belt Testing, Axe TKD
- Mar 14: USTF Black Belt Testing, Sereff TKD
- Mar 28: Maestas TKD Tournament, Arvada, CO
- Apr 11: Axe TKD Tournament-Youth Center
- Jun 2: Black & Color Belt Testing, Axe TKD
- Jun 21-26, 2026 - Sereff World Camp
- Sep 1: Black & Color Belt Testing, Axe TKD
- Sep 12: Mar 14: USTF Black Belt Testing, Sereff TKD
- Dec 1: Black & Color Belt

Tournaments—2026

As we move into 2026, several tournaments are planned throughout the year. I encourage students to choose events they are able to attend, with a goal of participating in **at least one tournament per year**. The tentative schedule:

March 28: *Maestas Tournament*, Apex Center, Arvada, Colorado

This tournament is located in Arvada, Colorado. We have been attending this tournament for several years. We have rooms reserved and can share that information if you are going to attend. We can also provide rides if necessary. At this time we have the following indicating they would attend: GM Todd, Master Bowling, Mrs. Ragone, Mr. Buckley, Ms. Grant, Mr. DeVries and Mr. Cordova (7). It would be great if a few more joined us for this event. You can read more and register by going to: [MaestasTournament](#) Please email axetkd@gmail.com if you have any questions.

April 11: *Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament*, Offutt Youth Center, Bellevue Nebraska. All students are expected to attend this event. Axe Taekwon-Do will host its **17th Annual Taekwon-Do Tournament on Saturday, April 11, 2026**, at the **Offutt Youth Center**. This highly anticipated event is a cornerstone of our program, and participation from all students is essential to making it a success. The tournament will run as a full-day event, beginning at **9:00 a.m.** and concluding by **4:00 p.m.** Competitions will include individual patterns, sparring, and team breaking, with students matched against others close in rank and age to ensure fair and exciting competition. We will discuss this more in class.

The tournament is open to all students, including our newest white belts. Black belts are required to participate in several tournaments each year depending on rank, while color belts are strongly encouraged to attend at least one tournament annually. This event conveniently fulfills that requirement without the added expense of travel. We look forward to a strong turnout and hope everyone can join us in making the **2026 Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament** a memorable and successful event. You can read the flyer and registration form at: [AxeTKDTournament](#). Payment options include **Venmo** or check.

September: *Wyoming Tournament*, Casper, Wyoming

October: *Sereff Taekwon-Do Fall Tournament*, Broomfield, Colorado

2026 Sereff Taekwon-Do World Camp at Snow Mountain Ranch

The 2026 World Camp is currently full. **If you are still interested in attending, please let me know and I will add your name to the USTF waiting list.** Attending from Axe Taekwon-Do. Grand Master Todd, Master Bowling, Mrs. Ragone, Mr. Toppi, Ms. Grant, Mrs. Lewis and Mr. May. We are also excited to have a former Axe Taekwon-Do black belt, Ms. Lutzova' joining us from the Czech Republic.

I will be coordinating the travel details. As with the last camp, we plan to depart on Saturday rather than leaving early Sunday. We have to be at USTF HQ by noon on Sunday to travel as a group to the camp. More details will be shared soon.



For those that are attending, your next payment is due by **May 1, 2026**, and should be paid directly to me, payable to STKD. **The camp is officially full with 115 campers.**

Axe Taekwon-Do

Axe Taekwon-Do was formed in 2004 at Offutt Air Force Base. Grand Master Todd and (Retired) Sr. 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.

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: axetkd@gmail.com

Master Bowling
Phone: 402-917-3699
Email: arbowing11@hotmail.com

Training in 2026 (Grand Master Todd)

With the start of a new year, many people set goals and resolutions. Did you? More importantly, did your goals include Taekwon-Do? I hope every student at Axe Taekwon-Do has set meaningful goals for the coming year. My goal every year is to continue to grow our classes while maintaining the high level of instruction our students deserve.

The instructors at Axe Taekwon-Do are something that I am very proud of, I do not let just anyone instruct. Axe Taekwon-Do has myself as a 9th Degree Black Belt, 1-7th Degree Black Belt, 2-6th Degree Black Belts, 2-5th Degree Black Belts, 7-4th Degree Black Belts, 2-3rd Degree Black Belts, 1-2nd Degree Black Belt, and 2-1st Degree Black Belts. This is a tremendous amount of knowledge and skill available to every student who joins our school.

There are no secrets to earning a black belt. It takes hard training, dedication, and perseverance. While some schools may offer a quicker or easier path, students must ask themselves what they are truly earning. At Axe Taekwon-Do, we follow the system left to us by the founder of Taekwon-Do, General Choi Hong Hi. His teachings, books, and courses created a standard of excellence that we continue to uphold.

I was fortunate enough to train with General Choi several times during instructor courses, and I continue to update my knowledge annually through the USTF courses. I share that knowledge with all. I will never equal the knowledge or skill of General Choi, Sr. Grand Master Sereff, the Founder of the USTF, or Grand Master Winegar, the Technical Director of the USTF and a few other Grand Masters senior to me. I do however strive to be loyal and continue the legacy of Taekwon-Do.

Although today's students can no longer train with General Choi or Sr. Grand Master Sereff, they can still train with other seniors at courses to include Grand Master Winegar during the Technical Courses. It is beyond frustrating when a black belt says, "I am already certified, or I attended that course before, why should I attend again?" The truth is, learning never stops. I have attended countless USTF Technical and previous to that course, Instructor Courses. I honestly can't count the number, but I learn something new **every** time. Continuing education ensures that I can better serve the art of Taekwon-Do, the USTF and my students.

A student once told me Grand Master instructors present 100 percent of their knowledge, hoping students retain at least 40 percent. This may be true, but that is another reason to seek the continuing education through our courses. Think about your side piercing kick, probably the best kick in my opinion for self-defense. As a yellow belt with a green stripe, you may feel confident in your technique, but look at the same kick on a blue belt. You will see it has improved, then compare with a red and a black belt. The technique does not change, but through countless hours of repetition and correction, it becomes sharper, stronger and more refined. Growth in Taekwon-Do is the result of consistent effort, attendance in class, and willingness to keep learning.

Remember, we all start as white belts. I tested and promoted through every rank, learning through trial and error what works and what does not. Take full advantage of the time we train together. If you truly want to excel, do not stop once you achieve black belt. Train even harder. Attend more than the minimum two required classes per week. Technically proficient black belts always train beyond the minimum.

I never set a goal to be average, and neither should you. Make your goal in 2026 to becoming the best Taekwon-Do student you can be.