



Editors note: All articles are written by GM Todd unless otherwise noted.



Birthdays in May:

Happy birthday to the following students of Axe Taekwon-Do: Mr. May (2nd), Ms. Buckley (9th), Mrs. Ragone (15th), and Mr. Ostrander (26th). Please let me know if I am missing anyone who has a birthday in May.

USTF Technical Course— May 4, 2024—Arvada, Colorado

Grand Master Todd, Sr. Master Bushor, Master Bowling, Mrs. Ragone, Ms. Grant, Mr. Garber, A., and Mr. Garber, D. attended a course hosted by the USTF and taught by Grand Master Winegar. The event had over 100 black belts and a few red belts. Training took place from 9 am to 3 pm, covering all color belt patterns and the first pattern for each black belt level. Grand Master Winegar taught the black belt patterns, while the color belt patterns were taught by other Grand Masters in attendance. Remember, approval is required from GM Todd for any pattern adjustments.

A majority of the “changes” were reminders of technique from past instructors courses. Grand Master Winegar provides new information and reminders at every course.



Inside this issue

- Birthdays/Technical Course.....1
- Testing/Publications.....2
- Email/World Camp.....2
- Class Price Change.....3
- Future Events/Test.....3

Calendar Dates 2024

- May 30 —Axe TKD Testing
- Jun 16-21—World Camp
- Aug 24—Kirksville Tournament
- Aug 29 —Axe TKD Testing
- Oct 20—Sereff Tournament
- Nov 21 —Axe TKD Testing

Promotion Testing—Axe Taekwon-Do—May 30th:



The next test at the Youth Center is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th. Testing forms will be distributed during the week of May 13th. There will be a black belt test, with Mr. Zach Ostrander testing for 4th degree black belt. This is considered the most physically difficult testing in Taekwon-Do and signifies the transition from novice to expert black belt ranking. The rankings for black belt are 1st-3rd degree (novice), 4th-6th degree (expert), 7th degree (Master), 8th degree (Sr. Master), and 9th degree (Grand Master).

USTF Publications

I have a shipment of books available for sale. The USTF Patterns Handbook (blue book), revised and published April 2023. I also have the USTF Tournament Rules and Regulations (red book) revised and published in July 2018. There are other books for sale including the USTF Testing Syllabus, for white belts through 1st degree black belt (white book) revised and published in November 2019. The USTF Testing Syllabus, for 1st degree black belt through 7th degree black belt (black book) was revised and published in January 2018. The USTF Step Sparring Handbook (yellow book) was revised and published in April 2019. I have the current red and blue books, and Sr. Master Bushor should have the other books. All books are \$15.00 each.



Recent Email Communication:

Recently I sent out several emails to poll our class for your interest in attending tournaments in Missouri and Colorado. I have discussed these results with Grand Master Sereff and Grand Master Stephenson. I should know soon if they are planning on hosting their tournaments.

An additional email referenced the wearing of lanyards for our certified referees and updating qualification badges. Please ensure you respond to both emails to allow me to proceed with this request.

Sereff World Camp 2024

Sereff World Camp at the YMCA of the Rockies will be held from June 16th-21st, 2024. Students attending will be Grand Master Todd, Mrs. Ragone, Mr. Toppi, Ms. Ragone, and Ms. Grant. The camp is completely full of students from across the United States and from several countries. There is a waiting list and if you would like to add your name in the event of an opening. You can read more about the camp at: <https://www.axetkd.com/PDF/WorldCamp24.pdf>

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 3rd 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 teaching.

Classes are taught on Tuesday & Thursday.

Beginners: 5:30—6:30 pm

Advanced: 6:30-8:00 pm

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[Direct Contact Instructors](#)

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Class Price Changing—Sept 1, 2024

Previously I sent an email to everyone informing you that the Youth Center must discontinue the family rate for classes. I have discussed the possibilities with the Youth Center Director, and it was decided we would lower the individual rate from \$75 per month to \$70 per month. However, the \$70 per month applies to all students regardless of family size. We researched other Military Programs, and the family rates are being discontinued. I do believe that we have a great martial arts program here with Taekwon-Do and that is still a bargain compared with other local martial arts programs.

To repeat from my email, I pride myself and our black belts in ensuring they have attended all courses to be certified to teach Taekwon-Do, I have more than 40 years of experience in teaching and hope you agree we have a quality program. Typically, the cost of classes per student “off base” ranges from \$125 to \$275 per month per student. I don't have the fancy martial arts gym or other luxuries, but I do believe I have a solid understanding of Taekwon-Do and I hope you continue learning from our Taekwon-Do program. Again, you may find examples of schools that charge “initial” rates that look good at first glance, but you must commit to multiple months in a contract that raises pricing. *This change will be effective September 1, 2024.*

Future Events—2024

May 30, 2024: Axe Taekwon-Do Testing.

June 16-21, 2024: Sereff World Camp—Snow Mountain Ranch, Colorado.

August 24, 2024: Kirksville Taekwon-Do Tournament, Kirksville, Missouri. (pending)

August 29, 2024: Axe Taekwon-Do Testing.

October 20: Sereff Taekwon-Do Tournament, Broomfield, Colorado (pending)

November 21, 2024: Axe Taekwon-Do Testing.

Future Tests—2024

All color belts are considered for testing and promotion quarterly in February, April, August, and November. There are many factors that are considered before we allow a student to take a test. I am providing the following tentative dates for black belts. It will provide the black belt student with a goal, but I will decide, based on your skill, attitude, qualifications, and attendance.

May 30—Mr. Ostrander to 4th degree black belt.

August 29—Mr. Buckley to 5th degree black belt.

November 21—Ms. Param and Ms. McDermott to 3rd degree black belt.

The above black belt names are simply a forecast of potential dates, this can change depending on the student's attendance, health, etc.