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AXE TAEKWON-DO

NEWSLETTER

October 2026

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct 29: Halloween Workout

Nov 26: Thanksgiving

Dec 1: Black & Color Belt Testing, Axe TKD

Dec 3: Youth Center closed for TKD

Dec 17: Class Holiday party

Dec 24: Christmas Eve

Dec 29-31: Closed for Holidays

Mar 27: Maestas Tournament – CO

Apr: Axe Tournament – NE

May 15: USTF Technical Course – CO

Summer: Kirksville Tournament – MO

Oct: Nationals/Sereff Tournament - CO



Happy Birthday - October

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

Oct 1 – Mr. Toppi
Oct 11 – Ms. Piele
Oct 17 – Mr. May, C.
Oct 31 – Ms. Chambers, W.



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

Welcome to Axe Taekwon-Do!

Please welcome our newest students to the Axe Taekwon-Do family: **Elijah Whitaker, Willow Chambers, & Eliza Brummett.**

We are excited to have them join Axe Taekwon-Do. and we look forward to watching them grow in skill and confidence. **Welcome to the Axe family!**



Halloween Workout

Due to the outstanding success of last year's Halloween workout, Axe Taekwon-Do will once again be hosting a special Halloween-themed workout this year!

Since Halloween falls on Saturday, October 31st, our Halloween workout will be held on **Thursday, October 29th.** All students, especially those in the 5:30 p.m. class are encouraged to participate by arriving in costume. Costumes must allow students to train and perform Taekwon-Do safely. Please remember to keep your costume respectful. **Do not bring weapons or items that resemble firearms** into the Youth Center.

For those who prefer not to wear a costume due to personal beliefs, your Taekwon-Do dobok is acceptable to wear. This event is meant to be fun and enjoyable for everyone. We look forward to seeing your creativity and having a great time together.

Parking During the Halloween Workout

The Youth Center is having their annual trick or treat event in the parking lot of the Youth Center also on **Thursday, October 29th**. We will still hold our Halloween workout on the same day. Parking will be on the streets surrounding the Youth Center and there is a lot where the old gas station was in the past. You need to walk a little further to class, but it will be worth it. I will have several adults (dressed in doboks) circulating outside passing out candy and Taekwon-Do brochures.

USTF Referee Seminar October 3 – Offutt Youth Center

On Saturday, October 3, Axe Taekwon-Do at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska, hosted a USTF Referee Seminar taught by Grand Master Todd, 9th Dan. Thirty students attended from Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, and Alaska. Eighteen participants were recommended for new referee certifications, while twelve previously certified referees completed refresher training.

The following students attended for certification:

Recommended for Class A Referee

Mrs. Megan Matheny Ciskowski, 5th Dan (Minnesota); Mrs. Arlene Slocum, 4th Dan (Alaska); and Ms. Amy Buckley, 4th Dan (Axe TKD).

Recommended for Class B Referee

Ms. Haylie Lewis, 2nd Dan, and Mr. Dameon Garber, 1st Dan (Axe TKD); Mr. Travis Carthron, 3rd Dan, and Mr. J. McBride, 2nd Dan (CAT TKD).

Recommended for Class C Referee

Ms. I. Piele, Mr. L. DeVries, Mr. C. May, and Mr. M. Cordova, all 1st Dan (Axe TKD); Mr. J. Schuster, Red Belt (CAT TKD); and Mr. Charles Zeman, Ms. Melissa Schierman, Mr. A. Aviles, Ms. C. Jacob, Ms. S. Jacob, and Ms. L. Jacob, all 1st Dan (Kirkville TKD).

Participants are listed as recommend because final certification decisions remain with the USTF following review of their applications.

Refresher Training Class A

Grand Master Cope (Cope TKD); Grand Master D. Stephenson (Kirkville TKD); Master Bowling, Mrs. Deborah Ragone, 6th Dan, Mr. Sean Toppi, 6th Dan, Mr. Keith Buckley, 5th Dan, Mrs. Sharon Buckley, 4th Dan, Mrs. Elizabeth Chamberlin, 4th Dan, and Ms. Brianna Grant, 4th Dan (Axe TKD); Mr. Robert Perkins, 6th Dan (Harrisburg TKD); and Mr. Johannes Schul, 4th Dan (CAT TKD).

Refresher Training Class B

Mrs. Sarah Bush, 3rd Dan (CAT TKD)

USTF Referee Seminar October 3 – Offutt Youth Center – continued

The seminar covered the 2018 USTF Rules and Regulations book currently used for USTF tournaments, emphasizing the practical application of judging patterns, sparring, and breaking. The format provided more opportunities to practice in tournament scenarios rather than focusing solely on the book knowledge required to pass a written test.

Participants also reviewed expectations for USTF referees and officials, including proper dress, tournament participation, and requirements for competing and refereeing. All black belts in attendance will receive eight hours of continuing education credit for 2026.

A special thanks to Ms. Steinberg, Mr. Steinberg, Ms. Koffman, L., and Ms. Koffman, N., for attending the event as competitors and providing the judges with practical experience judging patterns, sparring, and breaking.



Upcoming Closures at Axe Taekwon-Do

We continue to have classes year-round, as long as the Youth Center remains open. Please remember that if the base closes due to weather, so does the Youth Center. We will announce these closings as they occur through email. Currently, the following scheduled closures are planned.

Thursday, November 26th - Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 3rd – Youth Center Closed for an event

Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 29th & Thursday, December 31st—Axe TKD vacation

There could be other conflicts as the Youth Center may have December events. Don't worry if you miss a class due to a closure, or your schedule, you are always welcome to make up by attending both classes on another day. In fact, any student may attend both classes at any time. Class times are as follows:

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (first class)

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (second class, with the option to leave at 7:30 p.m. if needed)

Promotion Testing – December 1

The promotion testing will be a **combined color belt and black belt testing**. The testing will be on December 1, during the normal class time. More details as we approach this testing, but all color belts will be evaluated. I am still looking at black belts that may be eligible for this date.



Looking for a holiday gift for a Taekwon-Do student?

I have a commercial account with Century Martial Arts. This is a great source for sparring gear and other gifts. Axe Taekwon-Do does maintain a lot of used gear but your student may want their own gear. As they begin travelling to tournaments, it is great for them to maintain their own gear. You can look at their website at: <https://centurymartialarts.com/> Don't focus on the pricing as that is retail and I own a wholesale account so the prices will be less. Simply let me know what you are interested in, and I can obtain the actual costs. I do have some sparring gear currently in stock that may match your sizing needs. I can order anything that you might need, except the weapons.

Taekwon-Do does teach weapons defense, but we do not train or practice with offensive weapons, swords, etc. Email me at axetkd@gmail.com if you have any questions.

New Look for Axe Taekwon-Do

If you have not looked at our website, please check out the new refreshed look at <https://www.axetkd.com>. If the old red/black theme shows, you may need to hit refresh on your device.

Annual Axe Taekwon-Do Holiday Party – December 17, 5:30-8:00 PM

The Annual Class Holiday Party will be held in the Youth Center on December 17th, during class time. There will be no classes that night and the dress will be casual.



We will have a chili or whatever competition where the winner will receive a voucher for \$75.00 which can be used for any Taekwon-Do related event or gear. I will email out the flyer and further details soon. I already have all details scheduled, and the event will roughly follow prior parties. All you need to do is show up (bring a dish if you want to compete). There will be a signup sheet in class in December, so we can ensure we have everything covered.

Class Holiday Break

We will not hold classes from December 24th to January 1st. I look forward to seeing you on the next class scheduled which will be January 5th. Please take this time to enjoy your family and friends. During this down time ensure you are still practicing your patterns. Don't worry if you miss a class due to a closure, or your schedule you are always welcome to make up by attending both classes on another day. In fact, any student may attend both classes.

Class times are as follows:

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (first class)

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (second class, with the option to leave at 7:30 p.m. if needed)



Looking into 2027 and Beyond

Typically, we could travel to Colorado twice per year, host our own tournament and in the past travel to Wyoming. Unfortunately, Wyoming will not be an option any longer as they are no longer with our organization. I have discussed reviving the Missouri tournament with Grand Master Stephenson and we are hopeful in 2027 that they can return to hosting a tournament. Thus far:

- March: Maestas Tournament, Arvada, Colorado
- April: Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament, Offutt Youth Center
- May 15: USTF Technical Course, Arvada, Colorado
- Summer/Early Fall Potential Missouri Tournament, Kirksville, Missouri
- October: USTF Nationals or Sereff Fall Tournament, Broomfield, Colorado
- **2028, June 18-23:** Sereff Taekwon-Do World Camp

I have been asked numerous times about a potential camp in 2027 located in Australia. This has not been finalized yet, but I will provide more information when it is available.