

USTF Newsletter

April 2026
Volume 2 Issue 4



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Calendar Dates 2026

Mar 28 Maestas TKD Tournament: Arvada, CO. Promoter: SM Pettijohn. [MaestasTKD](#)

Apr 11: Axe TKD Tournament: Bellevue, NE. Promoter: GM Todd. Flyer: [AxeTKD2026](#)

Apr 18: USTF Basic Ho Sin Sul Seminar. Promoter: SM Wadium.

Apr 25: Wyoming USTF Black Belt Testing: Casper, Wyoming. GM Martin.

May 5: USTF Black Belt Test: Arvada, CO. SM White.

May 16: 2026 UCHTA Annual Utah Cup Tournament: Salt Lake City, UT. Promoter: SM Wadium.

May 30: USTF Knife & Weapons Seminar: Broomfield, CO. GM Sereff.

Jun 2: Color Belt Testing: Bellevue, NE. GM Todd.

Jun 6: UCHTA Spring Black Belt Testing: Salt Lake City. SM Wadium.

Jun 21-26: Sereff World Camp 2026. Limit 115 spots, reserve your spot early. Preregister by 12/30/25, \$350 per camper. Final \$350 due by 5/1/26. Contact GM Sereff @ 303-466-4963 or rsereff@rmi.net

Aug 7-9: UCHTA Summer Weekend TKD Camp: East Canyon State Park, Morgan, UT. SM Wadium.

Sep 1: Color Belt Testing: Bellevue, NE. GM Todd.

Sep 12: USTF Black Belt & Masters Test: Sereff TKD.

Sep 26: Wyoming USTF TKD Tournament: Promoter: Ms. Willcox. a2willcox@yahoo.com

Dec 1: Black Belt & Color Belt Testing: Bellevue, NE. GM Todd.

Maestas Color Belt Testing held in Arvada, Colorado

Submitted by Mrs. Emily Ross, 3rd Degree Black Belt

Maestas Taekwon-Do held a successful color belt promotion test on February 26, 2026, recognizing the hard work and progress of its students as they advanced to new ranks. This was an important part of their growth in front of instructors, marking a milestone in their Taekwon-Do journey.

The following students were promoted:

Red Belt Black Stripe: **Judah Busch, Ella Makelky, Gabriel Bettis, and Sybil Gulsby**

Green Belt Blue Stripe: **Nicholas Biber**

Green Belt: **Joe Stivrins, Adeline Bettis, and Theo Biber**

Yellow Belt: **Squire Ross and Cedar Owens**

White Belt Yellow Stripe: **Roland Makuh, Jhene Velasquez, Evan Adler, and Cora Pettijohn.**

High test scores were award to **Sybil Gulsby** and **Squire Ross**.



Testing candidates with test board

Mr. Adler & Ms. Pettijohn



Mr. Bettis & Ms. Gulsby

Ms. Bettis & Mr. Biber

High Test Scores

Ms. Gulsby, SM Pettijohn, and Mr. Ross

USTF Knife & Weapons Defense Seminar - Promoter Mr. Omar Welch, 4th dan, USTF State Director - Georgia

On February 21, more than 20 dedicated Taekwon-Do students gathered in Acworth, Georgia for the USTF Knife and Weapons Defense Seminar led by Master Rouse, USTF State Director for Kansas. A former student of now retired Sr. Master Hannon, Master Rouse brought decades of practical self-defense experience to the event, guiding students through an intensive, hands-on training session. Hosted by Mr. Welch, the seminar drew attendees from several states in the Southeast.

The seminar also fulfilled an important requirement for black belts within the USTF, providing eight hours of continuing education credit. USTF black belts are required to complete at least eight hours of continuing education each year. The seminar highlighted the USTF and its ongoing commitment to continuing the legacy of Taekwon-Do.



Axe Taekwon-Do Combined Color & Black Belt Testing held in Bellevue, Nebraska

Submitted by Grand Master Todd, USTF Director, Region 2

On March 3, 2026, Axe Taekwon-Do in Bellevue, Nebraska, hosted a successful promotion test for students progressing from White Belt through 1st Degree Black Belt. The event was conducted by **Grand Master Todd, Master Bowling**, and the Testing Director, **Mr. Toppi**, 6th Dan. Ensuring a high standard of Taekwon-Do was observed by all. Students demonstrated their skills and perseverance as they advanced to their next ranks. The testing reflected months, if not years, of dedicated training and commitment to Taekwon-Do and the USTF.

Congratulations to the following students on their promotions:

1st Degree Black Belt: **Mr. Logan DeVries**

1st Gup Red Belt Black Stripe: **Mr. Michael Willams**

3rd Gup Blue Belt Red Stripe: **Mr. James Williams**

4th Gup Blue Belt: **Ms. Aurelia Steinberg, Ms. Addison Taylor, and Mr. Jeremiah Steinberg**

6th Gup Green Belt: **Mr. Carson Suggs and Mr. Brendon Roman**

7th Gup Yellow Belt Green Stripe: **Mr. Easton Walsh**

8th Gup Yellow Belt: **Mrs. Jennifer Williams and Ms. Liliana De La Cerda**

9th Gup White Belt Yellow Stripe: **Mr. Oliver Kettner**

Axe Taekwon-Do extends its congratulations to all participants for their hard work and achievements. The school welcomes any USTF members traveling through the area to stop in and train. Visitors are required to receive permission from their instructor prior to attending. For more information, please visit axetkd.com or Facebook.

Pictures on the following page

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Axe Taekwon-Do Combined Color & Black Belt Testing held in Bellevue, Nebraska

Submitted by Grand Master Todd, USTF Director, Region 2

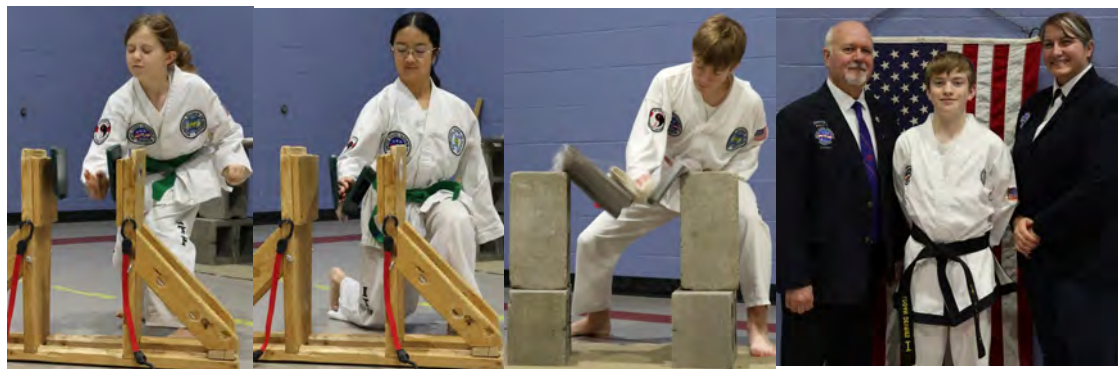


March 2026 Testing Group

Ms. De La Cerda

Mr. Steinberg

Mr. Walsh



Ms. Taylor

Ms. Steinberg

Mr. DeVries

GM Todd, Mr. DeVries & Master Bowling

USTF Black Belt Testing held in Broomfield, Colorado

Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director and USTF Administrator

Sereff Taekwon-Do hosted a prestigious USTF Black Belt Test on April 14, 2026, bringing together some of the organization’s most senior leaders. The testing board was comprised of **Grand Master Sereff, Grand Master Martin, Grand Master Steadman, Grand Master Todd, and Grand Master Winegar** as special guest. Mrs. **Caitlyn Royston** ran the test, a duty typically performed by Mr. Rose; however it was his turn to test!

A total of six candidates tested for the rank of Master: **Michael Gimelli, Marianne Armstrong, Mark Lynton, Daniel Nelson, Scott Foster, and Jason Rose**. Their testing reflected years of commitment and dedication to the USTF and Taekwon-Do.



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USTF Black Belt Testing held in Broomfield, Colorado

Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director and USTF Administrator

Additional promotions included:

6th Degree Black Belt:
Dr. Shevan Duiker
and **Gray Stewart**

4th Degree Black Belt:
Joel Bettis

2nd Degree Black Belt:
Kathryn Martin and
Amelia Castello



The testing featured strong representation from multiple schools including Sereff Taekwon-Do, Maestas Taekwon-Do, DeBaca Taekwon-Do, and Senatobia Taekwon-Do. Support also came from Grand Masters, Senior Masters, and Masters traveling from Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Mississippi, and Utah, highlighting excellent support of the USTF. Congratulations to all that successfully completed their grading.



Group picture of all Grand Master, Sr. Master, and Master instructors at the testing



The newest Master instructors in the USTF

17th Annual Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament Invitation - April 11, 2026

Submitted by Grand Todd, USTF Director, Region 2

You are cordially invited to attend the 17th Annual Axe Taekwon-Do, USTF sanctioned tournament, taking place on April 11, 2026, in Bellevue, Nebraska. This exciting event will be hosted at the Offutt Air Force Base Youth Center (Building 5085, 25th Street & Hruska Blvd), bringing together other USTF schools from several states for a full day of competition.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with the competition running from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to pre-register, with a cost of \$45 per student. This fee includes entry into patterns, sparring, and team breaking divisions. Registration at the door will be available for \$55.



Team breaking will consist of three members per team and is open to all students ranked yellow belt and above. Required techniques include a downward knife hand strike, side piercing kick (modified is allowed), and turning kick. Competitors will use plastic boards for all breaking events: UMAB (green-black) boards for hand techniques, and PNP (tan-white) boards for foot techniques. Please note that the black PNP boards are not permitted for this competition.

This tournament continues to be a highlight for Axe Taekwon-Do within the USTF, offering students the opportunity to test their skills, build experience in competition as a competitor, and referee. Remember all students have varying requirements to be promotion eligible for participating in USTF tournaments as competitors and officials. Please refer to the following for registration information and payment options: [Axe TKD Tournament](#)

Sereff World Camp - 2026 - YMCA of the Rockies, Snow Mountain Ranch

June 21st - 26th, 2026 - Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director and USTF Administrator

At this time the camp is full, if you would still like to attend please contact Grand Master Sereff at 303-466-4963.

Sereff Taekwon-Do will host the **2026 Sereff World Camp**, offering a week of world - class Taekwon-Do training in the Rocky Mountains. From Grand Lake to Snow Mountain Ranch, campers will enjoy challenging instruction, traditional waterfall and lake training, and guidance from USTF Grand Masters, Senior Masters, and International Instructors.



Camp Details

- **All campers must stay at the camp** (4-5 per room; linens and three meals daily included).
- Arrive **Sunday, June 21 after 3:00 p.m.** Group check in at 4:00 p.m. *By Grand Master Sereff*
- Carpool from Sereff Taekwon-Do in Broomfield, CO at 1:00 p.m.
- If flying, use Denver International Airport. Depart Friday, June 26 after 5:00 p.m.

Costs

- **\$700 Room & Board** (includes t-shirt)
- \$350 non-refundable deposit (was due by Dec 30, 2025)
- **\$350 balance due by May 1, 2026**
- Extra t-shirts \$15; hoodies \$45

Please send travel plans one month prior to camp. You can pay by **check or with credit card**. If you have any questions please call Grand Master Sereff at 303-466-4963 or email: rsereff@rmi.net

USTF Ongoing Review of the Testing Syllabus and Requirements - Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director and USTF Administrator

The United States Taekwon-Do Federation (USTF) Testing Syllabus for 1st Dan through 7th Dan Master Instructor contains a wealth of information designed to guide Black Belts through each stage of advancement. With so much valuable material included, leadership encourages a monthly review of the Syllabus to ensure members remain aligned with the standards established by our Founder, **Sr. Grand Master Charles E. Sereff**.

Our USTF Technical Director, **Grand Master Mike Winegar**, had a profound influence on the development and structure of this project. Today, he continues to support the growth and technical excellence of members by teaching the USTF Technical Course, reinforcing the high standards expected throughout the organization.

For Black Belts holding the rank of IV Dan within the USTF, active tournament involvement remains a key requirement. If you have not recently worked or participated in a tournament, please refer to the official Syllabus. Working at least three USTF tournaments prior to grading is required.

For members located in areas without sufficient numbers to host tournaments, alternatives such as attending a USTF Referee Course refresher or organizing in-house tournament events are encouraged to maintain and sharpen referee skills. For I, II, and III Dan members, tournament participation is also required as part of rank progression. As always, there may be exceptions based on individual circumstances, and instructors are available to provide guidance where needed.

Community Service continues to play a vital role in Black Belt development. Several years ago, **Sr. Grand Master Sereff** adjusted the former Thesis requirement to focus on Community Service. Many members already exceed the minimum expectation of 20 service hours annually. Contributing positively to our communities reflects the true spirit of Taekwon-Do and strengthens both our local impact and organizational unity.

Grand Master Sereff
USTF Test Director
USTF Administrator

