

# USTF Newsletter

February 2026  
Volume 2 Issue 2



**Maestas Annual Class Patterns Competition** - Submitted by Mrs. Emily Ross, 3rd Dan, Maestas Taekwon-Do



Maestas Taekwon-Do

In December, Maestas Taekwon-Do hosted their long held the tradition of conducting an all school patterns competition at the completion of each year. Students' names are drawn at random to create one, single-elimination bracket. The students then compete with the highest level pattern they know until the judges have narrowed it down to an ultimate winner. The winner is then presented with the "Bob Cup" (a plastic trophy originally named after both Sr. Master **Robert Martin** and Sr. Master **Robert Pettijohn**) and keeps it in his possession for one year. This year, the cup was awarded to Mrs. **Tracey Pettijohn** on December 18, 2025.



SM Pettijohn Mrs. Pettijohn

**Axe Taekwon-Do Annual Holiday Celebration and Cooking Competition**- Submitted by Grand Master Todd, USTF Director - Region 2

On December 18, prior to beginning a well deserved two week break, Axe Taekwon-Do hosted its annual party and in-house competition. This special event brings students and their families together to celebrate the accomplishments of the year and enjoy time as a school community.



One highlight of the celebration is the cooking competition, where participants may enter a chili or other dish. All entries are presented anonymously and numbered, allowing the entire class, including family members to vote for their favorite. The winning entry is awarded a \$75 voucher, which may be used toward any Taekwon-Do related event or gear.

This year's winner was Mrs. **Elizabeth Chamberlin**, 4th Dan, whose delicious macaroni grilled chicken pasta Milano earned top honors, Mrs. Chamberlin is a previous award winner, and we are grateful for her continued participation, as well as the enthusiasm and involvement of all Axe Taekwon-Do students and families who made this event a success.

## Calendar Dates 2026

**Jan 24:** Black Belt Testing: Sheridan, WY. SM Johnson

**Jan 31:** Black Belt Testing: Kirksville, MO. GM Stephenson

**Feb 14:** Black Belt Testing: Marquette, MI. Mrs. Armstrong

**Feb 21:** USTF Knife & Weapons Seminar: Acworth, Georgia. Promoter: Mr. Welch. Instructor Master Rouse, [KnifeWeaponsCourse](#)

**Mar 3:** Black Belt & Color Belt Testing: Bellevue, NE. GM Todd

**Mar 14:** USTF Black Belt & Masters Test: Sereff TKD. 930 a.m.

**Mar 28** Maestas TKD Tournament: Arvada, CO. Promoter: SM Pettijohn.

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

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

**May 2:** USTF Knife & Weapons Seminar: Broomfield, CO. GM Sereff

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

**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](mailto:rsereff@rmi.net)

**Aug 7-9:** UCHTA Summer Weeknad 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

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

## Passing of USTF Senior Master Guy Williams USTF-8-39

December 2025

The USTF is sad to announce the passing of Senior Master Williams of Fairbanks, Alaska. Sr. Master Williams was a former USTF State Director for Alaska and the head instructor for Fairbanks Taekwon-Do. Sr. Master Williams began his Taekwon-Do journey under Master Marty Lester.



## Strong Turnout for January Black Belt/Red Belt Class at the YMCA

*Submitted by Grand Master Martin, Casper, Wyoming*

The monthly black belt/red belt class was held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, with excellent attendance, marking a strong start to the new year. Students from across

various Wyoming Taekwon-Do programs came together for a productive and energetic training session. The turnout reflects growing enthusiasm and commitment within the class, as well as continued momentum for the program at the YMCA. Instructors expressed excitement about the future of the class and the ongoing development of the school throughout the state. With a successful kickoff to 20206, the black belt/red belt class is poised for another year of growth, progress, and strong participation. As the group looks ahead, the message remains clear: Kick a kicking and keep moving forward.



## USTF Knife and Weapons Seminar Coming to Acworth

BSDTaekwon-Do will host the USTF Knife and Weapons Seminar on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the Acworth Community Center, located at 4361 Cherokee Street, Acworth, Georgia. The all day seminar will be taught by Master Rouse and will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The seminar is designed to provides hands on instruction for defense against knife and weapons for Taekwon-Do students. The registration cost is \$75 for a first time participants and \$50 for refresher students. A plastic training knife is available for an additional \$15 for those who need one. Please pre-register by February 14. Registrations may be mailed to Mr. Omar Welch, P.O. Box 801661, Acworth, GA 30101. As a reminder this seminar will provide students with 8 hours of continuing education which is required by ***all*** active Taekwon-Do members of the USTF. The event flyer, registration form, and release form are available online at: [KnifeWeaponsCourse](#)

## Current USTF Taekwon-Do Seminars—Currently Offered

USTF Referee Seminar  
USTF Step Sparring Seminar  
USTF Ground Tactics Seminar  
USTF Ho-Sin Sul Seminar  
USTF Knife and Weapons Seminar  
USTF Breaking Seminar

Please contact your Regional Director or USTF Headquarters if you are interested in hosting a seminar.

## USTF School Membership Certificates

This is a reminder to submit your Taekwon-Do school registration. This fee is required annually for any school with over 20 students. There are no other special fees for any USTF region for individual schools. Please note that this program replaced the USTF Plaque Program. The registration fee is \$50 per year and provides instructors with a discount on USTF merchandise and is due each year by **January 31st**. When submitting your registration, please ensure you include the official name of your Taekwon-Do school. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued support of the USTF.

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

The annual USTF maintenance fee is coming again for 2026. The annual fee is \$75.00 for an individual. Family discounts are the same for the annual fee as it is for the initial fee. The fees are due no later than March 30th, and there is a late fee of \$20.00. The maintenance fee is waived for 2026, if you joined the USTF during the time period of October-December 2025.

**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

Contact your instructor for further information.

**Requirements for Black Belt Applications**

All black belt applications submitted to the USTF for processing *must be typed and legible*. You can access the application at: [USTF Forms](#). The application submitted must also include payment, one photo that is trimmed to 1" x 1", and a signed liability waiver. Instructors are required to ensure that community service and other requirements are met. Instructors can maintain the record of community service. Black belt applications are processed in the order they are received **IF** they are complete. If your package is received and is incomplete, it will not be processed. Dan numbers are not held while we wait for the application to be completed. Your students work hard for their promotion, so please ensure you are submitting complete and accurate paperwork. Black Belt applications need to be sent to USTF Headquarters within two weeks after the date of the testing.

**USTF Website**

The USTF is working on a new refreshed website and it continues to be developed. You will be able to view USTF Events that have approved by Headquarters and other items including the ability to purchase USTF books and patches. The website is still located at: <https://ustf-itf.com/>

**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, a week of world class Taekwon-Do training in the breathtaking Rocky Mounts of Winter Park, Colorado. From Grand Lake to Snow Mountain Ranch, campers will experience a full week of challenging and inspiring training with some of the finest instructors in the world. The traditional waterfall and lake training sessions promise to be both unforgettable and invigorating.

***A few reminders:***

All campers are required to stay on campus. Each room will accommodate 4-5 campers in a single room. The bunks include linens, blankets, and towels. A three meal per day service is included. USTF Headquarters will handle room assignments. Campers should arrive **no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 21**. USTF HQ will check in the group at approximately 4:00 p.m. **Please do not check in individually at the Lodge**. Many campers will meet at Sereff Taekwon-Do in Broomfield, Colorado, to carpool to Snow Mountain Ranch around 1:00 p.m. that Sunday. We recommend flying into Denver on Saturday evening or early Sunday morning. Details on nearby hotel accommodations can be provided once your registration is received or you can search by Google for hotels near Broomfield. Dinner will be served at approximately 5:00 p.m., following room assignments. Additional information, including meeting locations will be sent about one month prior to camp.

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**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**

A packing list is included in the registration flyer. Campers will train under the guidance of USTF Grand Masters, Senior Masters, International Instructors, and selected Junior Instructors from around the world, offering unparalleled opportunity to learn from the best Taekwon-Do black belts in the world.

Please send your travel plans to Sereff Taekwon-Do Headquarters no later than one month before camp. If you plan to carpool, **arrive at Sereff Taekwon-Do by 1:00 p.m. on June 21**. If you are flying home, schedule **your departure after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 26**, allowing sufficient time to arrive and check in at Denver International Airport **at least two hours before your flight**.

**Sereff World Camp Room & Board:** \$700 per camper (t-shirt is included). Extra T-shirts are \$15 each, hoodies are \$45 each

**Non-refundable deposit:** \$350, was due by **December 30, 2025**

**Remaining Balance:** \$350, is due by **May 1, 2026**

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](mailto:rsereff@rmi.net)

**Building a More Peaceful World Through Taekwon-Do, - Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director and USTF Administrator**

Required knowledge at the 7th Gup (Yellow Belt Green Stripe) level in Taekwon-Do is more important now than ever. The final line of the Student Oath - *"I shall build a more peaceful world"*. Gives every student of Taekwon-Do, regardless of rank, a meaningful responsibility.

As instructors, we sometimes reflect on how the practice of defense and counterattacks may not always feel like a path toward peace. However, understanding the intent behind Taekwon-Do helps us see the bigger picture. General Choi Hong Hi, the founder of Taekwon-Do, was a military man who grew up surrounded by war. Through those experiences, he witnessed firsthand the destruction of conflict and the cruelty people can show toward one another. These realities shaped his desire to improve the world around him.

General Choi envisioned Taekwon-Do as more than a martial art. He intended it to be used only for good. By creating the Student Oath and the Tenets of Taekwon-Do, he provided guidance so practitioners could help build a world where people care for one another and live peacefully together, regardless of background or location. After leaving the Korean Army, General Choi dedicated his life to spreading Taekwon-Do across the globe, hoping it would one day promote peace and unity among all people.

So how can we, as students and instructors, help build a more peaceful world? According to *Taekwon-Do Talk*, in the **Kicks for Kids** section, the answer begins with everyday actions: always use your best manners, be patient with one another, control your temper, do your best, and finish what you start. Be brave, and help others find their bravery.

By living these principles both inside and outside the dojang, Taekwon-Do practitioners can honor General Choi's vision and take meaningful steps toward a more peaceful world.

Grand Master Sereff  
USTF Test Director  
USTF Administrator

**USTF Newsletter Distribution List**

We encourage all instructors to share the newsletter with their students. Should anyone wish to be added to our distribution list, please submit your full name and email address directly to **Grand Master Sereff** at [rsereff@rmi.net](mailto:rsereff@rmi.net)

