

USTF Newsletter

May 2026
Volume 2 Issue 5



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Maestas Taekwon-Do Tournament held in Arvada, Colorado

Submitted by Mrs. Emily Ross, 3rd Dan

Maestas Taekwon-Do held their annual tournament on March 28, 2026. There was a total of 68 competitors. The field was evenly split between adults and juniors, creating a balanced day of competition across age divisions.

A notable number of black belts were in attendance, including many Grand Masters, Senior Masters, and Masters, who served as tournament officials. Supported by the high quality of USTF referees, the event featured skilled competition and excellent judging throughout the day.

The grand champions were determined based on the total number of medals earned throughout the day. Four trophies were awarded to the highest scoring individual in each division.

- Sylas Gulsby**: Adult Black Belt: two gold medals and one silver medal
- Judah Busch**: Adult Color Belt: three gold medals
- Naomi Bettis**: Junior Black Belt: three gold medals
- Sybil Gulsby**: Junior Color Belt: three gold medals



Calendar Dates 2026

May 1: Sereff World Camp final payment due to USTF HQ.

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: Belt Testing: Bellevue, NE. GM Todd.

Jun 6: UCHTA Spring Black Belt Testing: Salt Lake City, UT. 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

Jul 11: USTF Referee Seminar: Salt Lake City, UT. Instructor: GM Steadman. Promotor: SM Wadium.

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

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

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

Sep 26: Wyoming USTF TKD Casper, WY. Tournament: Promoter: Master Willcox. a2willcox@yahoo.com

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



17th Annual Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament—Bellevue, Nebraska

Submitted by Grand Master Todd, USTF Director, Region 2

The 17th Annual Axe Taekwon-Do tournament took place on April 11, in Bellevue, Nebraska, bringing together approximately 50 competitors from across the United States, including competitors from Nebraska, Utah, Colorado, Minnesota, Wyoming, and Missouri. The tournament ran smoothly, thanks to the support of numerous black belts who generously volunteered their time as referees and judges. Special thanks go to Tournament Director **Master Bowling** and Chief Referee **Mr. Sean Toppi, VI Dan**, for their outstanding leadership. Registration was managed efficiently by **Mr. Buckley, 5th Dan**, and **Mrs. Buckley, 4th Dan**, while **Mrs. Chamberlin, 4th Dan**, handled bracketing responsibilities. The event began on a patriotic note with a moving performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” following the anthem, senior instructors were recognized for their contributions. **Grand Master Sereff** welcomed everyone and offered words of wisdom and encouragement emphasizing the strength and forward momentum of the USTF in 2026.

Throughout the day, the competition progressed seamlessly under the skilled announcing of Mr. Joe Toppi, a former USTF black belt. Medical support was provided by a team of active-duty U.S. Air Force EMTs, coordinated by **USTF Armed Forces Director, Captain Zach Ostrander, 4th Dan**. Fortunately, only minor issues required their attention. Events included black belt patterns, color belt patterns, black belt sparring, color belt sparring, and concluded with an exciting team breaking finale.

At the end of a memorable day, the Tournament Grand Champions were announced:

- **Black Belt Grand Champion:** Mrs. Meghan Matheny Ciskowski, 5th Dan, Kirksville Taekwon-Do, residing in Minnesota
- **Adult Color Belt Grand Champion:** Mr. Tim Reed, White Belt Yellow Stripe, Kirksville Taekwon-Do, Missouri
- **Junior Color Belt Grand Champion:** Mr. Matthew Cordova, Red Belt Black Stripe, Axe Taekwon-Do, Nebraska

Grand Champions

Team Breaking Winners



Mr. Reed, GM Stephenson, GM Sereff, Mr. Cordova, GM Steadman, Mrs. Ciskowski, GM Todd

Peewee Division Teams

Color Belt Division Teams

Gold: Bananas (Axe TKD)
Silver: Pickles 3000 (Axe TKD)

Gold: Kirksville Commandos (Kirksville TKD)
Silver: Stray Cats (CAT TKD)

Adult

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17th Annual Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament—Bellevue, Nebraska

Team Breaking Winners



Junior Division Teams

Gold: Bacon (Axe TKD)
 Silver: Golden Tigers (Maestas)
 Bronze: Spiders (Axe TKD)

Adult Black Belt Division Teams

Gold: Maestas Breakers (Maestas)
 Silver: The Board Breakers (Axe TKD)
 Bronze: Alley Cats (CAT TKD)

Ready for sparring

Individual winners:

Black Belts	Patterns	Sparring	Color Belts	Patterns	Sparring	Junior/Peewee	Patterns	Sparring
Mr. Valles, Dubbled TKD	Bronze	Silver	Color Belts			Mr. Walsh, Axe TKD	Bronze	
Ms. Bush, CAT TKD	Silver		Mr. Sancho, Kirksville TKD	Gold	Bronze	Mr. Colaner, CAT TKD	Gold	Silver
Mr. Cathron, CAT TKD	Bronze		Mr. Reed, Kirksville TKD	Silver	Gold	Mr. Steinberg, Axe TKD	Gold	Bronze
Mrs. Ciskowski Kirksville TKD	Gold	Gold	Mrs. Williams, Axe TKD	Gold	Bronze	Mr. Cordova, Axe TKD	Silver	Gold
Ms. Grant, Axe TKD	Silver	Silver	Mr. May, Axe TKD	Gold	Silver	Ms. Taylor, Axe TKD	Bronze	Gold
Mrs. Thacker, Kirksville TKD	Bronze		Mr. Kullman, Harrisburg TKD	Silver		Ms. Steinberg, Axe TKD	Silver	Bronze
Ms. Piele, Axe TKD		Bronze	Ms. Gonzalez, CAT TKD	Bronze	Bronze	Mr. Faith, CAT TKD	Silver	Silver
Mr. Bettis, Maestas TKD		Gold	Ms. Merrick, Maestas TKD		Silver	Mr. Aviles, Kirksville TKD		Bronze
Mr. Muniz, Maestas TKD		Bronze	Junior/Peewee			Mr. Makowskii, Sheridan TKD	Bronze	
Mr. Olson, Maestas TKD		Gold	Mr. Ahmad, CAT TKD	Gold	Silver	Mr. Schuster, CAT TKD		Gold
			Ms. De La Cerda, Axe TKD	Gold	Silver	Mr. Roman, Axe TKD		Silver
						Mr. Yupanqui, Kirksville TKD		Bronze

Columbia Academy of Taekwon-Do Testing

Submitted by Mr. Pingelton, 5th Dan, Columbia, Missouri

The Columbia Academy of Taekwon-Do promoted two assistant instructors to 3rd Dan on April 16, 2026. Dr. Sarah Bush and Mr. Travis Cathron, II tested before Mr. Robert Perkins, 6th Dan, Harrisburg Taekwon-Do, and Mr. Dan Pingelton, 5th Dan. Ms. Starlight Katsaros, 4th Dan, Harrisburg Taekwon-Do, ran the floor. Among other skills, Dr. Bush handled a much larger opponent in Mr. Cathron during the ho sin sul. Mr. Cathron set a personal best in both hand and foot breaking smashing some oversized, reinforced tiles.

“I am so proud of both of these martial artists,” Mr. Pingelton said. “Dr. Bush has been such an asset to our school, working with our younger students as they begin their journey in Taekwon-Do. I have watched Mr. Cathron, II, grow from a little boy preserving with confidence, into a fine young man and a formidable martial artist.” Following testing, students from CAT and Harrisburg enjoyed a shortened demonstration workout, emulating favorite kicks from a few of their instructors.



Front: Mr. Pingelton, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Katsoros
Back: Mr. Cathron, II and Dr. Bush

USTF Demonstration in Kennesaw, Georgia

Submitted by Mr. Welch, 4th Dan, USTF State Director Georgia

Our school proudly participated in the annual Big Shanty Festival on April 18, 2026, in Kennesaw, Georgia. This well-loved two-day community event serves as a fundraiser supporting local high schools and students pursuing higher education after graduation. We were honored to close out the first day of the festival, continuing a tradition of representation we have maintained each year since 2022 on behalf of the USTF. During the event, our students demonstrated their skills and dedication through performances of patterns, step sparring, and breaking techniques. Their hard work and discipline were on full display, offering the local community an exciting and inspiring showcase of Taekwon-Do. We were grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a meaningful event and look forward to continuing our involvement in the years to come.



Mr. Black and Mr. Stamov

From left to right, Mr. Omar Welch (4th Dan), Mr. David Black (1st Dan), Mr. Adam Welch (2nd Dan), Mr. Stoyan Stamov (1st Dan), Mr. Isaiah Garland (8th Gup), Mr. Jeremiah Garland (8th Gup), Ms. Harleigh Walker (8th Gup), Ms. Jillian Welch (2nd Dan) Mr. Christopher De Beer (7th Gup), Mr. William Smith (2nd Gup), Mr. Henry Black (6th Gup)



USTF Annual Maintenance Fee - Due March 30, 2026

The USTF is still collecting the Maintenance Fees for 2026. Please send these in ASAP or call Headquarters at 303-466-4963.

The USTF reminds all members that the **2026 Annual Maintenance Membership Fee** is now due. The annual maintenance fee is **\$75.00 per individual** and must be submitted no later than March 30, 2026. A **\$20.00 late fee** will be applied to payments received after the deadline. **Waiver Notice:** The 2026 maintenance fee is **waived** for members who joined the USTF between **October and December 2026**.

Family Discounts:

- \$75.00 - First family member
- \$50.00 - Second family member
- \$35.00 - Third family member
- \$25.00 - Fourth family member

Sereff World Camp - 2026 - YMCA of the Rockies, Snow Mountain Ranch
FINAL PAYMENT DUE - May 1 2026

Facebook Message, dated April 20, 2026 from Grand Master Sereff.

“Sereff Taekwon-Do World Camp is around the corner! We will be sending out liability forms to be completed and sent back the first week of May. We will be exchanging pins again this year, so gather some from your school, state or country and plan on having some fun! For those that want to pay your balance with the same credit card as the deposit be sure you let us know. We have great plans for all! We will be leaving Sereff Taekwon-Do on the 21st of June at 1:00 pm to carpool up to camp. If you need a ride make sure you are here by 12:30. More information to come!”



Camp dates: June 21st - 26th, 2026

Camp Details

- **All campers must stay at the camp** (4-5 per room; linens and three meals daily included).
- 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
- Arrive **Sunday, June 21 after 3:00 p.m.** Group check in at 4:00 p.m. *By Grand Master Sereff*

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

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

25th Annual Wyoming Invitational Tournament Invitation

Submitted by Master Willcox, 7th Dan, Casper, Wyoming

You are invited to the USTF sanctioned 25th Annual Wyoming Invitational tournament in Casper, Wyoming, on September 26, 2026. The event will be located at the St. Anthony's Tri-Parish Catholic School, 1145 W. 20th Street, Casper, Wyoming. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with the competition starting at 9:00 a.m. Participants are encouraged to pre-register by September 4. Registrations will be accepted on the day of the event, but the competitor will pay an additional \$10.00 for same day registration. Pre-registration will be \$45.00. This fee includes entry into patterns, sparring, and team breaking divisions. Please refer to the flyer for more information: [CasperTournament](#). You can also contact the tournament promotor, Master Willcox at a2willcox@yahoo.com



Advice and Guidance - *Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director and USTF Administrator*

I would like to personally thank all the instructors and schools who take the time to submit event applications to their USTF Regional Directors. The planning and preparation involved require significant attention and effort, and your dedication does not go unnoticed. We truly appreciate the continued support from schools, instructors, and senior members.

A gentle reminder: if you are offering advice to an event host, please be sure it has been requested. While all bring valuable ideas to the table, and that diversity is what makes each event unique, many events are hosted by junior ranked members. It can be difficult for them to decline suggestions from senior members, even when they may prefer a different approach. For this reason, sometimes the best support we can offer is to observe and encourage without unsolicited input.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Grand Master Todd. Not only does he patiently listen to me throughout the month leading up to the publication of the USTF News, but he also dedicates time to compiling the publication and refining submissions for both grammar and content. Your efforts are greatly appreciated; thank you for the outstanding work that you do!

For those submitting articles to the USTF News, please remember to include all essential details: Who, What, When, Where, and Why. Your attention to these elements helps that our publication remains professional and informative.

Thank you for all your contributions and support in making the USTF and the USTF News the best it can be.

