

# USTF Newsletter

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## 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).

## Color Belt Testing - Bellevue, Nebraska - Submitted by Grand Master Todd, USTF Director, Region 2

On September 2nd, 2025, A promotion testing was held at Axe Taekwon-Do in Bellevue, Nebraska. Students tested for ranks ranging from White Belt to Red Belt Black Stripe. The testing was conducted under the supervision of a board, including **Grand Master Todd**, 9th Dan, USTF Director Region 2, and **Master Bowling**, 7th Dan, USTF State Director, Nebraska. Mr. **Toppi**, 5th Dan, served as the Testing Director. Congratulations to the following students on their successful promotions.

Mr. Logan DeVries - 1st Gup, Red Belt Black Stripe  
Mr. Matthew Cordova - 1st Gup, Red Belt Black Stripe  
Mr. Michael Williams - 3rd Gup, Blue Belt Red Stripe  
Mr. James Williams - 4th Gup, Blue Belt  
Ms. Aurelia Steinberg - 6th Gup, Green Belt  
Ms. Addison Taylor - 6th Gup, Green Belt  
Mr. Jeremiah Steinberg - 6th Gup, Green Belt  
Mr. Harrison Hammering - 6th Gup, Green Belt  
Mr. Joshua Hammerling - 7th Gup, Yellow Belt Green Stripe  
Ms. Coree Lepak - 7th Gup, Yellow Belt Green Stripe  
Mr. Carson Suggs - 8th Gup, Yellow Belt  
Mr. Cameron Lepak - 8th Gup, Yellow Belt  
Mr. Brendon Roman - 8th Gup, Yellow Belt  
Mr. Easton Walsh - 9th Gup, White Belt Yellow Stripe

We welcome any USTF member traveling through our area to visit and train, please ensure you have approved any visit with your instructor.



## Calendar Dates 2025

**Oct 11:** USTF Referee Seminar: Instructor: GM Steadman. Cascade, MI. Promoter Mrs. Armstrong, 616-498-2706. Big Dog Taekwon-Do, Cascade Fellowship Church.

**Oct 11:** Basic HSS Seminar: Instructor: Mr. Sean Toppi, 5th dan, Denver, CO. Promoter GM Sereff. [Basic HSS Course](#)

**Oct 19:** Sereff Fall Championship Tournament: Denver, CO. Promoter GM Sereff. [Sereff Fall Championship](#)

**Oct 25:** Black Belt Testing: La Center, WA. SM Mason.

**Dec 6:** Black Belt Testing: Bellevue, NE. GM Todd.



## Coming Soon—2026 Sereff Taekwon-Do World Camp at Snow Mountain Ranch

Excitement is building for the **2026 Sereff Taekwon-Do World Camp**, returning once again to the beautiful **Snow Mountain Ranch**! This highly anticipated event will take place **from Sunday, June 21st to Friday, June 26th, 2026**. Participants will arrive on Sunday and depart on Friday, after a week of world-class training, camaraderie, and unforgettable experiences. Due to high interest, space is expected to fill quickly. **Further information will be released soon, and deposits will be due in December 2025.** Stay tuned for updates and get ready for another incredible Taekwon-Do adventure!



**Black Belt & Color Belt Testing - Broomfield, Colorado** - Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director, USTF Administrator, Head Instructor Sereff Taekwon-Do

On September 10th, 2025, A promotion testing was held at Sereff Taekwon-Do in Broomfield, Colorado. We are proud to announce the testing and promotion of Josh Martin to 1st Degree Black Belt. Mr. **Martin** joins his wife, Kat and daughter Karma in the Black Belt ranks of Sereff Taekwon-Do. The following color belts were testing and promoted in addition to Mr. Martin.

- Ms. Katielee Hill - 6th Gup, Green Belt
- Mr. Stanley Hill - 6th Gup, Green Belt
- Mr. Amos Castillo - 8th Gup, Yellow Belt

The summer time is always slow, but these students worked hard and achieved their goals with flying colors. A special thank you to Mr. **Jason Rose** who always brings out the best in students by running the test with high energy! The testing board was comprised of **Grand Master Sereff, Grand Master Steadman, and Sr. Master Smith.** Testing can be stressful, especially when you have Grand Masters sitting on the board! Great job and congratulations to all students.



Group testing

Mr. Rose & Mr. Martin

Castillo Family

Hill Family

Martin Family

**FedEx Delivery to USTF Headquarters - Sereff Taekwon-Do**

**Broomfield, Colorado,** Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director and USTF Administrator

Please do not use FedEx for any correspondence or package deliveries to USTF Headquarters or Sereff Taekwon-Do. The process requires us to reschedule a second delivery with a short timeframe, pay additional fees, or risk having the package returned to the sender.



For dependable service, please use the **US Postal Service, Amazon, or UPS,** as these carriers make multiple delivery attempts when our office is closed. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**Closed Promotion Testings in Taekwon-Do**

**Broomfield, Colorado,** Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director and USTF Administrator

All promotion tests in Taekwon-Do should be “closed” events. This means that attendance is reserved exclusively for your students and their families. No outside black belts, whether senior or junior are invited to participate or observe. This guidance is not meant to exclude, but rather to protect the special nature of testing. A testing is more than just an evaluation; it is a celebration of the success and achievements of the students and your school. If any black belt (senior or junior) approaches you regarding a testing, you should feel free to share this guidance with them and ***always*** direct them to your instructor. Only the head instructor of a school can extend invitations to those outside the school. As with any invitation to visit another school you must also ensure that prior to attending other schools testing that your instructor has also approved of this visit. **We can never have too much etiquette!** You can enjoy your Taekwon-Do friends at seminars and tournaments, but when it comes to testing, you should reserve this time for your own students, families, and black belts.



### Required USTF Courses

Do you know what USTF courses are actually **required**, and which are simply **encouraged**? The **only mandatory course** in the USTF is the **Referee Certification**. Starting in **January 2026, no waivers for Referee certification will be granted**. All other USTF courses are optional, though strongly encouraged. While only one certification is mandatory, the more courses that you attend, the more well-rounded and knowledgeable you become as a Taekwon-Do student. For those planning to teach, attending as many certification courses as possible is not only valuable for your development, but also demonstrates support for the USTF.

### Mandatory Courses

**USTF Referee Class C:** Must be completed prior to testing for 1st degree black belt (for students 13 and older).

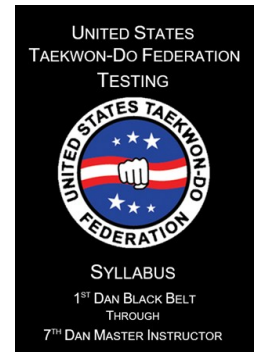
**USTF Referee Class B:** Must be completed prior to testing for 2nd degree black belt (for students age 17 and older).

**USTF Referee Class A:** Must be accomplished prior to testing for 5th degree black belt.

### Optional (Encouraged) Courses

- USTF Ho-Sin-Sul course
- USTF Ground Tactics course
- USTF Knife & Weapons course
- USTF Technical Seminar
- USTF Breaking course
- USTF Step Sparring course

Remember while only the Referee Certification is mandatory, every course you take builds your knowledge and strengthens your role in the TKD community.



**Call for Course Instructor Applications, Submitted by Grand Master Sereff, USTF Test Director and USTF Administrator**  
The USTF remains dedicated to providing high quality, challenging, and educational courses for its members. While our current instructors continue to serve with distinction, many are senior in rank, and it is essential that we prepare the next generation of leaders in Taekwon-Do instruction.

Qualified members who are interested in being considered for appointment as course instructors are invited to submit a formal letter of interest along with a current resume to USTF

Headquarters at [rsereff@rmi.net](mailto:rsereff@rmi.net). Prior to submission, you are expected to discuss your intent with your instructor. All approved instructor resumes will be kept on file and maintained by USTF Headquarters.



### Black Belt & Color Belt Testing - Arvada, Colorado - Submitted by Sr. Master Pettijohn, Maestas Taekwon-Do, Arvada, Colorado

On September 11th, 2025, a promotion test was held at Maestas Taekwon-Do in Arvada, Colorado. Presiding over the test was **Grand Master Sereff** and **Grand Master Steadman**. At this testing, Mrs. **Me Li Lin** successfully tested and was promoted to VII Degree, Master. **Master Lin**, a former student at Sereff Taekwon-Do, has recently joined Maestas Taekwon-Do. It is with great pride that we recognize **Master Lin's** achievement in attaining the rank of Master Instructor and to continue her training and dedication to the USTF.



**Color Belt Testing - Sequim, Washington**

On September 13th, 2025, A promotion testing was held at Bodystrong Sequim, Washington by **Sr. Master Stoppani** and **Mrs. Allen**. Congratulations to all students who were tested and promoted. There were 5 white belt yellow stripes and 4 yellow belts testing. Sr. Master Stoppani relayed, the lower ranks are the foundation of our organization, and they proved we have a very strong foundation!



**USTF Tournament - Casper, Wyoming - Submitted by Mrs. Willcox, 6th Dan, Casper, Wyoming**

The 24th Annual Wyoming Taekwon-Do Tournament was held in Casper Wyoming on September 20, 2025. What a great day full of Taekwon-Do. Thanks to all the students, parents, dignitaries, and volunteers who made the day a successful event. Seventy-three participants from Colorado, Nebraska, Utah, and Wyoming competed in individual patterns, sparring and team breaking. This marked the first time the event was hosted at St. Anthony’s Tri-Parish Catholic School, an excellent venue for the tournament. The competition began promptly at 9:00 a.m., and consisted of eleven pee-wee, and junior color belt divisions. There were six adult and black belt divisions.



At the conclusion of the competition, scores were tallied, and division winners in patterns advanced to a final round to determine the Grand Champions. The Color Belt Grand Champion was Mr. **Josiah Valdez**, green belt, from Maestas Taekwon-Do and the Black Belt Grand Champion was Mr. **Sean Toppi**, V Dan from Axe Taekwon-Do. Congratulations to all for their dedication and strong performance!



To finish the competition for the event six adult and five junior breaking teams broke off. For the junior breaking teams, Archangels took first place, Saint Anthony took second place, and Maestas Jr’s took third place. For the adult breaking teams, The Axe Destroyers took first place, Maestas Seniors took second place and Martin Mavericks took third place.



Grand Master Sereff, Mr. Valdez, Mr. Toppi, Grand Master Martin

**USTF Step Sparring Seminar - La Center, Washington - Submitted by Sr. Master Mason, Battle Ground, Washington**

On September 27th, the Pacific Northwest USTF schools hosted a Step Sparring Seminar taught by **Sr. Master Pettijohn**. The event was promoted by **Sr. Master Mason**. The event brought together 40 participants from four schools: Mountain View Taekwon-Do, Valley View Taekwon-Do, Bodystrong Taekwon-Do, and Golden Tiger Taekwon-Do. The seminar was well received with great students at all levels gaining valuable knowledge and experience. Sr. Master Mason remarked, “It is great when we have a seminar instructor from Colorado. I, as well as the rest of the students, learn or gain clarification on how we are teaching and apply step sparring. Sr. Master Pettijohn is always outstanding in his methods and attention to detail in teaching.”



Mrs. Mason and Ms. Allen

## USTF Events

### October 11: USTF Basic Self-Defense Seminar - Broomfield, Colorado

Sereff Taekwon-Do will host the USTF Basic Self-Defense Seminar on **Saturday, October 11th**, from **10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** The seminar is open to all ranks. The cost is \$75 for first time attendees and \$50 for returning students. Information and registration are available at: **Basic HSS Course**. Contact Grand Master Sereff at [rsereff@rmi.net](mailto:rsereff@rmi.net) or call to register.

### October 11: USTF Referee Seminar - Cascade, Michigan

Big Dog Taekwon-Do, Mrs. Armstrong will host the USTF Referee Seminar on **Saturday, October 11th** from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** The seminar will be held at the Cascade Fellowship Church, Cascade, Michigan. The cost is \$74 for first time attendees and \$50 for returning students. You can contact Mrs. Armstrong at 616-498-2706 to register.

**Oct 19: Sereff Taekwon-Do Fall Tournament.** Grand Master Sereff will host the Sereff Taekwon-Do Fall Tournament on October 19 in Broomfield, Colorado. The tournament will feature patterns, sparring and team breaking, with teams of five competing. For further details you can review the registration and flyer and information at: [2025 Sereff Tournament](#).

## Grand Master Sereff - Dining Etiquette

During my travels with the International Taekwon-Do Federation, I was often invited to formal dinners around the world. On many occasions, I was seated directly across from General Choi, which I initially considered a gesture of kindness and honor. This seat carried an important responsibility in observing proper etiquette.

According to Taekwon-Do etiquette, when General Choi spoke or set down his fork, the individual seated across from him was required to do the same. Since General Choi typically ate only a few bites, this required great attentiveness. I became aware that others at the table were observing whether I followed this custom correctly.

Another tradition was that no one began eating before the most senior individual had taken the first bite.

Sr. Grand Master Sereff, with great consideration for all present, would announce when head begun his meal so the table could proceed respectfully. On occasions when the wait staff did not serve him first, he would announce "Please start", to put everyone at ease.

These customs of courtesy and respect for our seniors should continue to be instilled in all students. A few key points of etiquette include:

- **Acknowledging your instructor in public.**

- If you see your instructor dining at a restaurant, do not interrupt their meal. A respectful nod is sufficient unless you are invited to approach. If invited, come to attention, bow and then greet them.

- If your instructor enters a restaurant while you are already seated, you should stand when they approach your table. Family members or non-students at your table are not expected to stand, this responsibility lies with the Taekwon-Do student.

- Demonstrating proper etiquette outside the dojang reflects the discipline, respect, and etiquette that Taekwon-Do seeks to cultivate. If you follow these principles, you are honoring your seniors and Taekwon-Do.

Grand Master Sereff  
USTF Test Director  
USTF Administrator

