

Family Self Defense Center adds to awards collection

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Family Self Defense Center, in partnership with Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, had students and Senseis achieve top honors in three Isshinryu Karate summer tournaments.

In June, at the Kiai Grand Nationals held in Beverly Hills, 18 students earned 49 total awards. Benjamin Matas earned the tournament's top Grand Championship title for underbelts, while Krishna Kiru earned the Grand Championship title for Black Belts. The students also earned 29 first-place national titles, along with 11 second-, six third- and one fourth-place winner.

Those earning national titles and the right to compete in the Grand Championship round included:

Weapons – Teddy Donahue, Ben Matas, Drew Adomaitis, Mitchel Huang and Shaelyn Carroll.

Kata – Teddy Donahue, Ben Matas, Drew Adomaitis, Jack Stephens, Trevor Adomaitis, Joshua Huang, Krishna Kiru and Mitchel Huang.

Kumite – Drew Adomaitis, Lizzy Arnold and Shaelyn Carroll.

School members traveled to Gatlinburg, Tenn., in July to compete in the Isshinryu Hall of Fame National Awards Banquet and Tournament. The school was honored with 11 National Top Five Awards for students and Senseis, with two students earning the No. 1 ranking in the country. Awards included:

Young Female Karate Ka 12 and under – Shaelyn Carroll, who earned the No. 1 title.

Young Female Karate Ka 13-17 – Krishna Kiru, Anwasha Sarangi and Ryan Swanson.

Young Male Karate Ka 13-17 – Andrew Swanson.

Jr. Female Competitor – Lizzy Arnold and Tanaz Naterwala, who earned the No. 1 title.

Female Instructor – Sensei Ryan Swanson and Master Chris Szelap.

Spirit of Isshinryu Senseis – Master Z Szelap.

Top Five Isshinryu Dojo in the Country – Family Self Defense Center, for eight consecutive years.

In early August, 15 students traveled to Princeton, N.J., for the Isshinryu World Karate Association Tournament. At the competition, Elizabeth Arnold became the top ranking Jr. Black Belt in the world for females ages 15-17 in Kumite, while Shaelyn Carroll earned the title of World Champion Jr. Black Belt for Weapons ages 11 and under. The students also earned four second-, three third- and two fourth-place awards.

The school has the distinction of having more than two dozen Black Belts on its teaching staff. FSDC offer classes through Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, including all-ages Martial Arts and Samurai Sword, a home school class held during the day and an adult only class.

More information can be found at www.cityofnovi.org and www.karatebyfsdc.com.

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