



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Novi karate group earns national, international recognitions
Family Self Defense Center named top-five international dojo for 12th year

Novi, Michigan, Aug. 16, 2018 – Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services congratulate Family Self Defense Center (FSDC) for their continued excellence in both national and international competition.

Twenty-nine students participated in the Karate International Association of Isshinryu (KIAI) Grand National Tournament June 23 in Southfield, Mich. "Team FSDC" earned 55 awards, including 20 first-place wins, eight berths in the Underbelt Grand Championship division and three berths in the Jr. Black Belt Grand Championship.

The team continued on to the Isshinryu National Tournament July 20 in Gatlinburg, Tenn., where FSDC earned a "record setting" 22 top-five award in 11 different categories. That evening included the Isshinryu Hall of Fame Awards Banquet, where Chris Szelap was awarded the title of Top Female Instructor in the Country. For the 12th year, the dojo earned the honor of being selected as one of the "Top Five Isshinryu Schools in the World." FSDC earned more nominations (22) this year for their students and senseis than any other Isshinryu school in the world.

FSDC students and senseis also competed in the International Tournament on July 21, where many FSDC students have earned World titles previously. One day after competing for national honors, five international awards were earned by three members of Team FSDC, many of whom have never competed in an International Tournament.

Taking home student honors were:

- **Rachel Manela** – second place in Kumite, third place in Weapons, fourth place in Kata at Internationals; first place in one category at KIAI Nationals; finalist Adult Female Karate Student at Nationals.
- **Lexi Maxton** – third place in Brown Belt Kata at Internationals; first place in one category at KIAI Nationals; finalist Young Female Karate Student (13-17) at Nationals.
- **Emily Kasper** – fourth place in Jr. Black Belt Kata at Internationals; finalist Young Female Karate Student (13-17) at Nationals.

- **Ameilia Chung** – first place in special Jr. Black Belt Sunsu kata challenge at KIAI Nationals, first place in three categories at KIAI Nationals; finalist Young Female Karate Student (13-17) at Nationals.
- **Shaelyn Carroll** – grand champion in Tournament Jr. Black Belt at KIAI Nationals; first place in two categories at KIAI Nationals.
- **Jim Bertin** – Top Karate Student in the Nation in age bracket at Nationals, winner Adult Male Karate Student at Nationals.
- **Jachin Chung** – Top Karate Student in the Nation in age bracket at Nationals, winner Young Male Karate Student (12 and under) at Nationals; first place in one category at KIAI Nationals.
- **Neha Gogineni** – Top Karate Student in the Nation in age bracket at Nationals, winner Young Female Karate Student (13-17) at Nationals.
- **Rowan Adomaitis** – finalist Young Female Karate Student (12 and under) at Nationals; first place in one category at KIAI Nationals.
- **Molly Forsyth** – finalist Young Female Karate Student (12 and under) at Nationals; first place in one category at KIAI Nationals.
- **Jessica Harrison** – finalist Young Female Karate Student (12 and under) at Nationals; second or third place in one category at KIAI Nationals.
- **Austin Bermingham** – finalist Young Male Karate Student (12 and under) at Nationals; second or third place in one category at KIAI Nationals.
- **Drew Adomaitis** – each earned first place in two categories at Nationals, finalist Young Male Karate Student (13-17) at Nationals.
- **Ben Matas** – finalist Young Male Karate Student (13-17) at Nationals.
- **Scott Verhelle** – finalist Adult Male Karate Student at Nationals.
- **Evelyn Barrons, Noah Bayma** – each earned first place in two categories at KIAI Nationals.
- **Ethan Barrons, Jesse Barrons, Molly Forsyth, Adishvar Jeyaranjan, Joey Saeli** – each earned first place in one category at KIAI Nationals.
- **Trevor Adomaitis, Cristian Baretti, Lorenzo Baretti, Reed Bermingham, Nicholas Harrison, Alexan Kazarian, Khai Kowalske** – each earned second or third place in one category at KIAI Nationals.

Taking home instructor honors were:

- **Family Self Defense Center** – finalist Isshinryu Dojo of the Year at Nationals.
- **Chris Szalap** – winner Female Instructor of the Year at Nationals; Finalist for Don Nagle Master Sensei of Senseis Award at Nationals.
- **Neha Gogineni** – finalist Female Instructor of the Year at Nationals.
- **Lily Kosaka** – finalist Female Instructor of the Year at Nationals.
- **Ted Lambert** – finalist Male Instructor of the Year at Nationals.
- **Scott Verhelle** – finalist Male Instructor of the Year at Nationals.
- **Mike Arnold** – finalist Outstanding Contribution to Isshinryu at Nationals.

Family Self Defense Center offers karate programs through Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services on Monday and Tuesday evenings in Isshinryu Karate and Okinawan weaponry. In existence for 26 years, FSDC boasts more than 130 students, with 20 actively training black belts and teaching assistants. More information can be found at www.karatebyfsdc.com or www.cityofnovi.org, Parks and Recreation Registration, then type “karate” in the filter.



The Novi-based Family Self Defense Center (FSDC) competed July 20-21 at the Isshinryu National Tournament, International Tournament and also attended the Hall of Fame Celebration all held in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Front row: Jessica Harrison, Rowan Adomaitis, Reed Bermingham, Lexi Maxton, Nicholas Harrison, Reed Bermingham, Anish Gogineni, Molly Forsyth, Jachin Chung, Ameilia Chung, Emily Kasper, Rae Manela.

Back row: Drew Adomaitis, Mr. Z, Chris Szelap, Lizzy Arnold, Scott Verhelle, Mike Arnold, Ted Lambert.



The Novi-based Family Self Defense Center (FSDC) competed June 23 at the Karate International Association of Isshinryu (KIAI) Grand National Tournament in Southfield, Mich.

Front Row: Shaelyn Carroll, Khai Kowalske, Ledger Klassa, Reed Bermingham, Molly Forsyth, Ethan Barrons, Rowan Adomaitis, Evelyn Barrons, Noah Bayma.

Middle Row: Jessica Harrison, Jachin Chung, Alexan Kazarian, Joey Saeli, Austin Bermingham, Jesse Barrons.

Back Row: Ameilia Chung, Lexi Maxton, Emily Kasper, Ted Lambert, Nicholas Harrison, Trevor Adomaitis, Drew Adomaitis, Rachel Manela, Manisvar Jeyaranjan, Ryan Daly, Jim Bertin, Adishvar Jeyaranjan.