

Starworld students earn top honors

SPECIAL TO THE WEST VALLEY VIEW

Starworld Martial Arts Academy of Goodyear sent more than 50 competitors to the World Tang Soo Do Association Region 2 Championship at Ability360 in Phoenix and returned with multiple medals, Grand Champions and a first-place Demonstration Team trophy.

Master David Boeckman, 4th Dan and master instructor at Starworld, was named “Master of the Year” for his leadership, dedication and contributions to the martial arts community.

The championship opened with a Masters Demonstration featuring Tang Soo Do masters and senior instructors performing board-breaking, brick-breaking, sword forms and creative martial arts routines.

“Our students train hard, and it’s rewarding to see them succeed at such a high level,” said Master Johnny R. Williamson, 7th-degree black belt and owner of Starworld. “We’re also proud



Starworld Martial Arts Academy students displayed their skills at the Region 2 Championship, earning medals and trophies for their Tang Soo Do dojo. (Starworld/Submitted)

of Master Boeckman’s recognition — it reflects the quality of instruction and leadership that defines Starworld.”

The students named Grand Champions were:

- Caleb Whitehead — Black Belt Boys 13 & Under Division
Competitors from across Region 2 competed in sparring, forms, weapons, team events and demonstrations. Starworld’s Demonstration Team earned first place overall.
The list of medalists include Kaitlyn Chan, Tyler Chaignot, Ella Carlos, Kamila Castro, Michael Connors, Michael Eaton, Brody Eaton, Michael Fresquez, Jade Gutierrez, Josiah Hawthorne, Tovi-yah Hawthorne, Olive Kovach, Zachary Kovach, Benjamyn Krejci, Sabrina Luciano, Elisa Martinez, Magdeline McBride, Mikaela Owens, JD Owens, China Grayce Ragan, Owen Reed, Zane Rodriguez, Noah Rusk, Mario Santana Jr., Emily Shipman, Jackson Strawn, Parker Touvell, Sage Weisensee, Andrew Whitehead, Caleb Whitehead, Chen Wu, Eleanor Wu, Emmeline Wu, Jonas Wu, Rachel Wu and Claire Yu.
- Caden Rose — Black Belt Teenage Boys Division, tied with Andrew Whitehead
- Lanna De Castro Pontes — Black Belt Teenage Girls Division (1st place in sparring, forms, and weapons)



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