



OUR NEWS

CAMP ABILITIES – SUMMER 2026

Teaching Children and Teens who are Blind or Visually Impaired at Utica University



Camp Abilities is an empowering youth development program for children and teens who are blind or visually impaired. It is organized by the Central Association for the Blind or Visually Impaired (CABVI) in Utica, New York. This year's summer session was held at Utica University. The program allows kids ages 8 -15 with low vision to experience traditional youth camp activities in a fun and safe environment.

This year Headmaster Eric Stalloch taught self-defense and awareness to two groups on July 28th. He was assisted by instructors Paul Lilley, Mary Margaret Krukonis, and Alivia Franz and red top Josey Bauer.

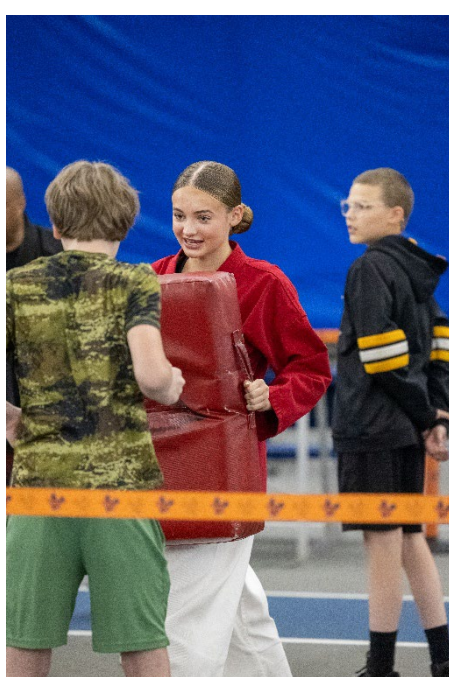
Headmaster Stalloch has been teaching men, women, teens, and children who are blind or who have low vision for nearly 20 years with Grandmaster Crandall. These programs were developed by Grandmaster Crandall with assistance from Headmaster Stalloch through SecureLiving.org.

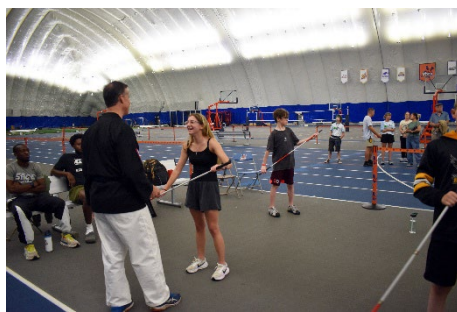


This year's Camp Abilities self-defense seminars included a short presentation about awareness, safety factors, and the power of the mind and knowledge. The majority of the sessions were participatory with the campers learning how to use their white canes for exercise, stretching, and self-defense techniques. Other skills learned and practiced included punches from a horse stance on a shield, blocks, and self-defense techniques against common grabs without the use of sight. Both groups were very energetic and their excitement was contagious with lots of laughing and smiling. Many of the campers had very thoughtful questions and time was taken to answer them and to work with every camper individually.



WKTV covered camp abilities, and the American Martial Arts Institute's self-defense sessions were one of the featured topics. [CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)







Thank you to Kathy Beaver, Senior Vice President of Rehabilitation for CABVI for inviting us to share our knowledge and skills with the campers. Thank you to Lynn Colburn, Teacher of the Visually Impaired at CABVI who oversaw the Camp Abilities this year. And thank you to all the counselors and staff at Camp Abilities for welcoming us to teach two groups of exceptionally positive and excited teens and children.



ABOUT OUR ARCHIVES

The American Martial Arts Institute maintains a library at its main office with records of rank promotions, events, publications, media coverage, photographs, and videos. These are in the form of photo albums, copies of our publications, preserved news articles, and digital files such as videos and photographs from events in our history. In 1998, the American Martial Arts Institute launched its first website. Since then, the website has undergone many updates to keep up with changing technology. Many of our school's events and history are recorded on this website; however, not all testing results are maintained online (although testing records are maintained at our school). Events prior to 1998, are kept at our school library. This webpage documents some of our school's history.

For more information visit AMAI-EagleStyle.com.

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American Martial Arts Institute
8382 Seneca Turnpike: New Hartford, NY 13413
Tel: [315-768-1859](tel:315-768-1859)