



JKO Karate  
2327 Timber Drive  
Garner, NC 27529  
919.521.4438  
jkogarner.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Local Athletes Dominate Regional Tournaments, Qualify for National Championships and Junior Olympics**

*JKO Garner to field six competitors in USANKF National Championships and AAU Junior Olympics*

GARNER, North Carolina (May 4, 2010) – Japan Karate-Do Organization, Wake County’s premier Shito-Ryu Karate-Do dojo, today announced that three of their local athletes have qualified for the USANKF National Championships and Team Trials July 8-11 in Greenville, SC. They also have five qualified for the AAU Junior Olympics July 29-31 in Chesapeake, VA. Building upon a competition season of tough bouts against fierce competition, the students have earned the opportunity to compete against some of the top martial arts students in the country.

“I couldn’t be happier with our students’ successes,” said chief instructor and head coach Ed Craft. “These students have put in so much time and effort to achieve this level of success. When you think about the self-discipline these students have when it comes to balancing both school and extracurricular activities, it is very impressive. They’ve done exceptionally well.”

The qualifying team is comprised of the following individuals:

- Ford Bowden, a 16 year old Garner resident, attends Southeast Raleigh High School and is an applicant to the NC School of Science and Math. Ford is qualified for both the National Championships and the Junior Olympics.
- Ryan Clark, a 15 year old student at Garner High School, plays soccer on the school’s Junior Varsity team. In addition to his athletic skills, he is also a talented piano player. Ryan is qualified for the Junior Olympics.
- Michael Outlaw is 11 years old and attends Aversboro Elementary and enjoys reading the morning announcements for the school. With only four months of Karate training, Michael worked hard and qualified for the USANKF National Championships.
- Caleb Norris attends Vance Elementary and is 10 years old. An all-American boy, he loves Karate, Legos and video games. Although he has been training for less than a year, Caleb is qualified for the Junior Olympics.
- Riana Clark is 10 years old and goes to school at Vandora Springs Elementary. Riana also dances with a troupe competitively. Though new to Karate competition, she won two gold medals, qualifying her for the Junior Olympics.
- Connor Dodge is an 8 year old student at Vance Elementary. He enjoys two things: going to church with his family and practicing Karate. Persistent and dedicated, Connor is qualified for both the National Championships and Junior Olympics.

The students and club are currently trying to raise money for them to participate in these elite-level events. “Everyone has worked very hard for what they’ve gotten and have a real shot at medaling against the best in the country. We are looking for local sponsorship to help these individuals and provide some welcome relief as the costs for traveling to competitions and training brings serious financial demands.” Craft said. Their goal is to raise nearly \$6,000 over the next two months to cover travel and competition expenses for the team.

*For more information or to support Garner’s local team, contact JKO Karate at (919) 521-4438 or visit them online at [JKOGarner.com](http://JKOGarner.com)*