

INTERESTED ORGANIZATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. Where can I apply?

Organizations may apply here: [SAFD EEE Initiative Application](#). If you have any other questions please contact EEE coordinator, Danielle Rosvally at EEE@safd.org.

2. When can I apply?

Organizations may apply February 1, 2026 - April 1, 2026. Update: the application deadline for the 26/27 cycle has been extended to April 15, 2026.

3. When will initiatives take place?

Partnering organizations will schedule a time with the SAFD. For the 2026 cycle, we will be selecting at least one organization for the fall window (with initiatives taking place anytime from September 15, 2026 until December 15, 2026) and one organization for the spring window (with initiatives taking place between January 2, 2027 and April 1, 2027). Please specify in your application whether you are applying for the fall window, the spring window, or both.

4. What is an SPT? What is a CT and an AA?

[Click here](#) for SAFD FAQ

5. What does the SAFD provide each partnering organization?

- 33 hours of training including an adjudication test for students who want to certify
- Adjudication fees for students
- Payment for instructors and assistants for the duration of the training
- Airfare if it is needed for instructors

6. What is the partnering organization responsible for?

- Insurance naming the Society of American Fight Directors as an additional insured for the duration of the program
- Housing and ground transportation for instructors
- A space for classes for a maximum of 16 students to move freely
- Adherence to all COVID protocols set by the SAFD
- Advertising and obtaining a student base
- Documentation of their experiences through biweekly reports provided by the SAFD.

7. How many weapons disciplines can my organization train in?

Each organization is granted an SPT. We highly recommend that all organizations start with the "unarmed" weapons discipline. In the event that the community has need for a different discipline, Robb Hunter, of Preferred Arms Theatrical Weapons, has graciously donated the service of his armory as long as shipping is paid for.

8. How are teachers selected for the program? Can I request a CT or AA that represents the demographics of my community?

- An organization may request a Certified Teacher or Advanced Actor Combatant they would prefer to work with.
 - Please note that all EEE staff must be approved by the EEE coordinator
- If an organization does not request specific SAFD members, the organization will first be given a list of possible interested SAFD members. If an organization does not have a preference on a specific facilitators they would like to work with, the decision will then go to the Selection Committee.

9. Can organizations charge students?

No, partner organizations cannot charge students. The goal is to provide students with free and accessible training.

10. Does the SAFD provide insurance?

Interested organizations must provide insurance that covers all participants, including teachers and assistants, and the SAFD as an organization (via listing as an additional insured)

11. What should I include in my letter of intent?

Letters can be addressed to the EEE Selection Committee. In the form of a formal letter including a heading or letterhead with your organization's contact information (name, address, e-mail, phone number, etc.), please share specifics with us about:

- How this training will help your community and why your community wants/needs access to this training through the EEE program. Please be specific; we know and understand that stage combat is a specialized skill that can help actors with professionalization, but why is this important to *your* community? What is it about this training that will help shift the way your community members collaborate?
- What are the values of your organization, and how do they support the values of EEE as articulated on the [EEE website](#)? What qualifies your organization as

underserved? What are the demographics of your community? Who participates in your programming?

- Thinking beyond the work on your stages, why will this training benefit your community at large? How can working with EEE create further impact in the world of your organization that will have longer-lasting implications beyond the 33 hours supplied by the SAFD?

The EEE selection rubric (attached) will be used to evaluate applications, so organizations can/should directly address the elements listed there.

12. Who has participated in EEE before?

From 2022-2025 EEE visited eight locations around the country, servicing 131 students, and donating over 3,900 hours of education!

- [Pork Filled Productions](#) (Seattle, WA)
- [San Diego City College](#) (San Diego, CA)
- [Omaha Community Playhouse](#) (Omaha, NE)
- [Costal Carolina University](#) (Conway, SC)
- [Teatro Del Pueblo](#) (St. Paul, MN)
- [EPIC Players](#) (New York, NY)
- [Cherokee Historical Association](#) (Cherokee, NC)
- [Magic Theatre](#) (San Francisco, CA)
- [Lamar University](#) (Beaumont, TX)
- [ArtStream](#) (Silver Spring, MD)

13. How are organizations chosen to participate?

Organizations are selected using the EEE selection rubric (attached to this FAQ). A Selection Committee comprised of members of the SAFD who represent the global majority, different genders, disabilities, and marginalized sexual orientations will use the rubric to determine eligibility, community served, access, values, need, and impact.

14. What kind of organizations can apply?

Interested organizations should be incorporated as a non-profit. Examples of non-profit organizations can include academic or educational institutions, community or professional theatres and performing arts groups, or any other form of underserved non-profit organization with an interest in stage combat education and specifically the EEE Initiative with the SAFD. All participants must be 16 years old and above.

15. If my organization has already successfully won the EEE grant, can we apply again?

In the 2026 cycle, we will not be accepting applications from organizations who have already successfully won the EEE grant.

Organizations may reapply as frequently as they wish up to and until they successfully win the grant.

16. Can an organization get feedback on their application?

As of the 2026 cycle, yes. After EEE has sent decision announcements, organizations may request anonymized copies of their rubrics. Feedback will not be supplied prior to the application deadline.

If you have more questions, please contact Danielle Rosvally, EEE coordinator:
EEE@Safd.org

EEE Selection Rubric

Here are the questions on the FAQ that member organizations have been asked to address in their letter of interest:

- How this training will help your community and why your community wants/needs access to this training through the EEE program. Please be specific; we know and understand that stage combat is a specialized skill that can help actors with professionalization, but why is this important to your community? What is it about this training that will help shift the way your community members collaborate?
- What are the values of your organization, and how do they support the values of EEE as articulated on the EEE website? What qualifies your organization as underserved? What are the demographics of your community? Who participates in your programming?
- Thinking beyond the work on your stages, why will this training benefit your community at large? How can working with EEE create further impact in the world of your organization that will have longer-lasting implications beyond the 33 hours supplied by the SAFD?

Here are the “checklist” items an organization needs in their application (you don’t have to account for these items when filling out this rubric, the committee chair will do so, but this is for clarity and transparency about what is on that checklist). All the answers to this checklist must be “yes” for an application to be complete and able to be considered by the committee.

- Does the organization have the necessary square footage in a usable space for holding class?
- Does the organization have an insurance policy that would cover this class, and on which the Society of American Fight Directors or independent contractors can be added as additionally insured? Circle:
- Has the organization pitched a timeframe within the 2026 EEE Window (September 15 to December 19, 2026 or January 2, 2027 and April 1, 2027)?
- Can the organization provide housing and ground transportation for a CT or AA brought in for the work?
- Does the organization agree not to charge fees for EEE classes?
- Does the organization agree to abide by the no under 16s rule?
- IRS Determination Form, Proof of Fiscal Sponsorship, or other Proof of Nonprofit Status provided

Has this organization been directly served by EEE before? (For the 2026 cycle, we are not currently considering repeat visits to organizations).

Instructions: Please highlight the statements that align with your reading of this application, then assign a number from 1-5 for each category. You can, based on a split alignment, assign a half point if it best suits (so: something that has some qualities of 4 and some qualities of 5 could be scored 4.5. Please provide a brief justification for score in the boxes below, unless it is a 5 in which case no justification is required but you may add one if you like.

Organization name:

	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Community Served	There is no clear articulation of the community this organization serves.	There is almost no articulation of the community this organization serves.	There is some articulation of the community this organization serves, but the articulation is muddy, unclear, or missing pieces.	The letter mostly articulates what community this organization serves.	The letter clearly describes what community is served by the applying organization.	
Access	The community this organization serves is already well-served by the SAFD.	The community this organization serves has access to SAFD resources, though perhaps not all the time. Alternately, the organization shows little dedication to having investigated the resources already available to them.	The community this organization serves has some access to SAFD resources, or can easily be connected with resources and teachers who are local.	The community this organization serves has limited access to SAFD resources. It would be difficult to connect them with local or semi-local teachers.	The community this organization serves is demonstrably underserved by the SAFD. They have almost no access to teachers and training.	
Values	There is no apparent value alignment between the applying organization and the EEE initiative.	It's difficult to say whether there is a value alignment with the applying organization and EEE because the organization's values are unclear or seemingly inconsistent.	The applying organization may have a clear value alignment with the EEE initiative, but the letter of intent makes it difficult to tell. Alternately, the organization can only fulfill one of the three core values of EEE (Expand, Educate, Empower).	The applying organization has clear value alignment with the EEE initiative, but this alignment is unclearly articulated by the letter of intent. Alternatively, the organization can only fulfill two of the three core values of EEE (Expand, Educate, Empower).	The applying organization has a clear and articulated value alignment with the EEE initiative. The EEE values of expanding outreach and diversity of the SAFD by connecting underserved theatre artists to stage combat professionals, providing free access to stage combat education, and empowering a more diverse cohort of theatre professionals will be strongly supported by the applying organization, as demonstrated by their letter of application.	

Need	The applying organization does not have a clear need for this training. There are ample apparent resources at their disposal that can be used to acquire the training outside of EEE.	The applying organization may have some need for this training, but there are clear resources at their disposal that can be used to acquire the training outside of EEE.	The applying organization has some need for this training, but the need has not been clearly articulated by the letter. There are (or may be) some other resources at their disposal that can be used to acquire the training outside of EEE.	The applying organization has need for the training and has somewhat clearly articulated it in their letter. They are lacking resources that can be used to acquire the training outside of the EEE program.	The applying organization has demonstrated a clear need for this training in their letter. There are few or no other apparent resources at their disposal that can be used to acquire the training.	
Impact	The applying organization has not articulated any impact this training would have beyond the classroom of students who will receive it. The letter has vagaries about the “value of stage combat” as a special skill, but no clear understanding of impact beyond that.	The applying organization has articulated some impact this training would have beyond the classroom, but the letter is unclear and that impact is muddled. Alternately, there are contradictory statements about the impact, or the articulated impact does not seem in keeping with the realities of the organization and their community.	The applying organization has demonstrated impact this training will make on the community beyond the students in the classroom, but there is no clear trajectory for how this training will create that impact.	The applying organization has demonstrated both an impact this training will make on the community beyond the students in the classroom and a trajectory for it, but that training seems implausible given the realities of the applying organization and their environment.	The organization has articulated a clear impact that this training will make on their community, beyond filling out special skills on actors’ resumes. There is a trajectory for the training to create further ripples in the surrounding community. Put another way: this training will do good beyond the 30 hours of in-class time, and will impact others beyond those in the classroom.	
					Total:	
Comments/ Justification:	Community	Access	Values	Need	Impact	