



Local Student Chapters

SAFE aims to provide students with diverse backgrounds with an open forum on fire ecology through which research can be shared, networks formed, and funding and information resources can be accessed. SAFE has a network of [local chapters](#) at colleges and universities, each led by a faculty advisor. Communication among the chapters is facilitated by a team of elected national officers.

Chapter Requirements ([from SAFE Constitution](#))

- **Numbers:** SAFE members may organize a local chapter based at their university with a minimum number of three members.
- **Chapter Duties:** To be recognized as a local chapter of SAFE, each local chapter is required to hold regular meetings; to maintain a list of members; and to submit accurate contact information for its officers and chapter advisor (if applicable) to the SAFE Secretary/Treasurer or another National SAFE officer once per year, preferably following each election cycle. Chapters are required to establish and maintain a bank account for purposes of receiving National SAFE funds.
- **Local Chapter Membership:** While it is the position of SAFE that local chapters should encourage participation among as many students as possible, and should engage in outreach activities, local SAFE chapters shall require membership in AFE/SAFE as a prerequisite for membership in their own local SAFE chapter.

Forming a SAFE Chapter

Secure a Faculty Advisor: First, you will need to get a faculty advisor at your school. Faculty advisors help make sure things run smoothly within the chapter and communicate ideas to outsiders. Faculty advisors should be interested and knowledgeable in fire ecology.

Establish a Student Organization: Although each school is different, there should be some sort of student organization main office that will have the specific criteria for starting your chapter. This office may also have ideas for recruitment and activities your chapter can participate in.

Recruit Members: There are several ways to recruit members to your chapter.

- Give short, 5 to 10 minute talks to introductory classes in your department about your chapter and activities you participate in.
- Hand out brochures or fliers about your chapter at college wide events or freshmen orientations.
- Help other organizations on campus with work projects or activities they participate in.
- Post signs around your department that specify the meeting times and places.
- Use social media to help spread the word in your department.

Example Chapter Activities:

- Set up booths at local festivals and events with activities that introduce people to wildland fire and its importance in our ecosystems.
- Invite guest speakers to chapter meetings to talk about current fire events or job opportunities. These guest speakers can be professionals in the field of forestry or fire ecology.
- Take field trips to sites that are using wildland fire to meet land management objectives.
- Hold trainings for your chapter members to acquire new skills and certifications
- Hold fundraisers to send SAFE members to AFE conferences or other educational events.
- Attend AFE conferences. Information about these conferences can be found on the AFE website: <http://www.fireecology.org>.

Check out examples of what other chapters are doing at <https://fireecology.org/safe-highlights>. This webpage is for your chapter to submit news, so once you have activities to report, send photos and a short write-up to office@fireecology.net for us to post.

Chapter Dues:

- The chapter may be required by the school to pay membership dues. Each school is different, so you should check with the student organization office. If the school requires dues, you might require each member to pay a small fee per school year.
- To remain an active SAFE chapter, your members need to have an active student membership with AFE. The current membership fee is \$35 annually. Go to <https://fireecology.org/join-login> for more information about membership.

National SAFE:

- A team of National SAFE officers provide overall leadership to student members and local chapters and are elected by SAFE members annually.
- The National Student Association for Fire Ecology holds yearly meeting, usually held in concurrent with an AFE conference.
- If you are interested in becoming an officer of the National SAFE, contact any of the officers for information or questions you may have.

How to Establish a SAFE Chapter

Contact us at office@fireecology.net. We will collect some initial information regarding the status of your chapter and provide a form for you to complete with your chapter's information.