



TSDMA SOUTH NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1 – JANUARY 2026

216 BOHANNON AVENUE, GREENEVILLE, TN 37745 – 423-609-1408 – ETTSD.COM – INFO@ETTSD.COM

Winter Reminder



ETTSD Weather Closings

If we need to close due to weather, we will post it on:

- Facebook – facebook.com/ettsd
- X - @EastTNTangSooDo
- There is an X feed on the website also – ettsd.com

We will also try to post if the weather is iffy and we decide to stay open.

Feel free to message, email, or call, if you need more information.

February Shim Sa



Sat, Feb 14, 3:00 p.m.

Testing students: 2:45 p.m.

\$40 testing fee.

Full Uniform required.

Spectators welcome.

Invitations to test will be given to eligible students after Tip Test.

For ETTSD, eligible students will also be listed on the white board above Ms. Jennifer's desk.

Please be sure uniforms are clean and neat. Pride in looking professional is as important as proper techniques

What to expect at a Shim Sa

With the influx of white belts, some who will be testing in Feb, it seemed like a good time to review this. Shim Sa means "examination" but also "judgement", as in judgement day. It is more regimented than a regular class.

1. Do not speak unless you are asked to. If you have a question, raise your hand. When called on, bow, ask the question, bow again.

2. Sit properly. We know some have limitations but otherwise, sit quietly in criss-cross position

3. No leaving the mat without permission. If you are 5th gup and up, consider hard if you truly need to leave the mat. You will not be asked to test for black belt unless we see you have the stamina to withstand the exam.

4. No Distractions. We know family and friends come to watch and encourage. Pretend they're not there. If someone tries to show you an awesome picture of you, tell them you can look after the exam is over.

5. When standing to bow in, bow out, receive belts, stand still in choong be. No holding your belt, no swaying, no loose fists. We know this is difficult. If you need to scratch your nose, ok but no repeated or large movements.

6. Do as the examiners tell you. Respond with action, and "Yes, sir/ma'am", if told you to "Drop and give me 10", you do it. If you are not sure what you did to deserve it, think on it. It will likely come to you.

Calendar

General

Open to all TSDMA Students.

- **Tue/Thu 4:45-5:15PM**, *Combined Class*. Open and free to all TSDMA members, friends, and family.
- **Tue, Jan 27, 6:30PM**. Self-Defense @ETTSD. Open to all.
- **Sat, Feb 14**, Shim Sa, see col 1.
- **NOTE**: Tournament schedule on Page 2.

East Tennessee Tang Soo Do

- **Tue, Jan 6**, Mat Chat
- **Tue-Thu, Jan 13-15**, Tip Testing
- **Sat, Feb 14, 1:30PM**. Staff meeting before the belt exam.

Newport Martial Arts Academy

- **Fri, Jan 9**, Sparring
- **Fri, Jan 16**, Tip Testing, Mat Chat
- **Fri, Jan 23**, wear Christmas pajamas
- **Fri, Jan 30**, Weapons

Lockers available @ETTSD

If you'd like to store your, or your child's, uniform/gear at the studio, lockers are available at no charge.

See Ms Jennifer and she will assign you one. You will have to provide your own lock and provide us with the combination or an extra key.

2026 Tournaments & Events

This list for the first half of 2026 is tentative. Some of these tournaments are ones we attended last year but have not announced a date yet. Some dates have two on the same day. We can't do everything, but will try to support all tournaments any students are attending.

Sat, 2/7 5th Annual Bryan Open Tournament



452 Mercer Drive, Dayton, TN
approx. 1.5 hrs.

Doors Open at 8AM. Black Belt Meeting 9:30AM. Bow In 10AM. Competition Begins Following Bow-In.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1525058312259558>

Tue, 2/4 - Sat, 2/7 MYFEST 26!



Fayetteville, NC
approx. 5 hrs

Tournament, Sat, 2/7

The Salvation Army , 220 E Russell St, Fayetteville, NC

Doors open: 8am, Line Up 9am

Pre-Reg: \$65

Karate Events: Forms, Weapons, Point Sparring, Padded Stick Engagement

WEKAF Events: Sayaw (Forms), Padded Stick Point Sparring, Live Stick Sparring

<http://www.sktsd.com/myfest26.html>

2/28 Mid-Cleveland Karate Championships

Shelby City Parks & Recreation Gym, 850 W. Sumter St., Shelby, NC 28150, 704-487-1377 or 704-435-1050, dmtkd@bellsouth.net
Approx 2.5 hrs

Looking into this. It looks to be sparring only. I will update when I find out

Sat 3/TBD

TSDMA South Interclub '26

@East TN Tang Soo Do

216 Bohannon Ave, Greenville, TN

This tournament is, in part, held to give first time competitors a chance to see how a tournament works before competing in larger ones. That means our more experienced competitors need to show the newbies by participating.

Other possibilities

APR

11 Kelly's Heroes Championship, Rogersville

18 Dragon Revolution,

<https://www.facebook.com/events/821386463941134/>

Last year: Warrior Spirit, Boone, NC

MAY

2 MidSouth Championships (ASKL)

Last year: Middle TN Isshynryu Open Karate Games

JUN

13 The Battle of Champions, Ringgold, GA. Jessie Thornton 706-965-8148 (ASKL)

Mat Chat

You can find our full **Mat Chat** pages on our website. Select: **Parents / Mat Chat**

This month:

Tenet/Code:

Loyalty to one's country (Code 1)

What is Loyalty?

Standing by or standing up for someone or something you believe in, such as your country.

Examples of Loyalty

- When you recite the Pledge of Allegiance you feel proud to be an American.
- Your sister joined the Air Force to serve her country. You don't want her to go but instead of crying you tell her how great she is.

Terminology

Tang Soo Do-Way of the China Hand

Why does a Korean style of karate have "Chinese" in its title? Think of Chinese Food, German potato salad, Southern Fried Chicken, New York Pizza, Buffalo Wings.

Grandmaster Hwang Kee, who started modern Tang Soo Do, spent years in China during World War II because Korea was taken over by Japan. Koreans were not allowed to practice their traditional martial arts. Many Koreans escaped and worked and trained in China until the end of World War II. Grandmaster Hwang Kee was one of them.

Counting in Korean

One – Hana	Six – Yasot
Two – Tul	Seven – Ilgop
Three – Set	Eight – Yodel
Four – Net	Nine – Ahop
Five – Tasot	Ten – Yol