



## BACK TO BASICS

### What is the Blount County Chamber of Commerce?

#### What does it do?

A chamber of commerce is a member-based organization of businesses seeking to further their collective interests, while advancing their community. Business owners form these local networks to advocate on behalf of the community at large, economic prosperity and business interests.



**Blount Partnership**  
Chamber of Commerce

The Blount Chamber focuses on building a community to which residents, visitors and investors are attracted, promoting our community, striving to ensure future prosperity via a pro-business climate, representing the unified voice of the employer community, and reducing transactional friction through well-functioning networks.

#### What are the benefits?

1. **Credibility:** Being a chamber of commerce member makes your business more desirable to customers.
2. **Publicity boost:** Your business will have more exposure both online and offline.
3. **Networking opportunities:** You'll be in direct contact with other professionals.
4. **Marketing:** The chamber of commerce promote your business through referrals, publications, newsletters, social media and sponsorships.
5. **Advocacy:** A chamber of commerce supports member businesses. It acts as a voice for the common interests of members.
6. **Professional development:** The chamber of commerce hosts professional development events like training to help you learn or improve upon skills that are essential to running your business.



#### How do I get the most out of my Chamber membership?

1. **Get involved:** When you get involved with your chamber of commerce, you will become better connected to your community. You will become more aware of community and business issues. You can help solve problems, and members can help you solve your problems.
2. **Earn marketing:** You can obtain marketing through your chamber. Free marketing will expose customers to your business with no extra cost to you.
3. **Take deductions:** Your membership fee is 85% tax deductible as a business expense.
4. **Interact with us on social media:** Want to know a great way to get a conversation rolling online? Tag us in your posts!
5. **Submit your news:** When you have some newsworthy information to share, send it our way!



#### How do I find out more information?

1. **Website:** Get the information you need is at [www.blountchamber.com](http://www.blountchamber.com).
2. **Phone:** Call us at 865.983.2241 and speak with membership director Jessica Hahn.
3. **Stop by:** Visit us at 201 S. Washington St. in Maryville.

## New Members

We'd like to welcome new members to the Blount County Chamber of Commerce who joined since last month. If you are interested in joining or finding out more information, please call 865.983.2241 or go to [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com)

Allstate - Joy LaForce Agency  
[www.allstate.com/joylaforce](http://www.allstate.com/joylaforce)

C Spire Business  
[www.cspire.com/business](http://www.cspire.com/business)

Card Connect  
[www.cardconnect.com](http://www.cardconnect.com)

D1 Training - Maryville  
[www.d1training.com](http://www.d1training.com)

DW Lenski Law Group  
[www.dwlenski.com](http://www.dwlenski.com)

Green Village Green  
[www.greenvillagegreen.com](http://www.greenvillagegreen.com)

Olympia Athletic Club  
[www.olympiaathleticclub.com](http://www.olympiaathleticclub.com)

Pivotel America, Inc.  
[www.globalmarinenet.com](http://www.globalmarinenet.com)

Primary Players Children's Theatre Group  
[www.primaryplayers.com](http://www.primaryplayers.com)

Rustic Roots Creative  
[www.rusticrootscreative.com](http://www.rusticrootscreative.com)

Sitel Tennessee  
[www.sitel.com](http://www.sitel.com)

Stephen Goff Entertainment  
[www.stephengoffentertainment.com](http://www.stephengoffentertainment.com)

The Cherokee Group  
[www.thecherokeegroup.net](http://www.thecherokeegroup.net)

TriMark Strategic  
[www.trimarkusa.com](http://www.trimarkusa.com)

US Health Advisors  
[www.usagent.com/kevinjardet](http://www.usagent.com/kevinjardet)

Just by joining, your membership fee is 85% tax deductible. In addition, you can use the website to post your events and news while offering deals and coupons to customers.

## Blount Area Jobs

Are you looking for a job?

[www.BlountAreaJobs.com](http://www.BlountAreaJobs.com)

## GET CONNECTED FOR CHAMBER NEWS



## EVENTS CALENDAR

The events calendar on [BlountChamber.com](http://BlountChamber.com) allows the community to post its events directly to gain added exposure. These are great opportunities to connect and network with potential customers. Visit our website to receive notices of events and meetings you would like to attend – [BlountChamber.com](http://BlountChamber.com).

### JANUARY

- 26-27 Winter Heritage Festival at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center
- 26 Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont Winter Woody Plant ID
- 31 Coffee Club hosted by Regions Bank

### FEBRUARY

- 6 Active Shooter Training
- 8 Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program (SANCP) – Naturalist Skills at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
- 8 Maryville Alcoa Home Builders Association 2019 Home & Remodeling Show
- 12 Power Connect Lunch
- 15-16 Sweetheart Market at Cades Cove Cellars
- 17 Winter Beer Festival
- 19-21 Operation Thank You Delivery
- 22 Maryville Rotary Night Fever
- 28 Coffee Club sponsored by Smoky Mountain Fund-Raising

View more information on these events at [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com)

If you have any events you would like listed on our community calendar, click on [Event Submission](#) at [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com)

## Soft Skills Session



Take your career to the next level with this free soft skill session. Soft skills are strengthened and developed over time, and are necessary if you desire to climb the career ladder. All participants will earn .5 CEUs per session for participating.

### Personal Professional Development Planning -- February 22, 2019

Develop a personal or professional development plan by exploring some great online and in-person professional development resources available for you and your staff. Topics range broadly from management to leadership, marketing to web design, and software to soft skills.

Register at [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com)

## Business Counseling



Are you looking to start a small business or need help in your current one? Then check out the Tennessee Small Business Development Center that visits the Blount County Chamber every Thursday.

To schedule a FREE small business counseling session or to make an appointment with a representative from the Tennessee SBDC call Kasey at 983-2241.

## Premier & Presidential Partners

