

MEMBERSHIP

**BALCH SPRINGS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary 1961-2011

**2011
MEMBERSHIP
BENEFITS**



INTRODUCTION

As a member of the Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce, you are aligned with other businesses and individuals in an organization that is working to strengthen the long-term economic vitality of its members and the community. You will find that many of our specialized services have been designed to meet your needs. Be sure to put them to work for you today

EXPOSURE FOR YOUR BUSINESS

You will receive exposure through a free online listing, free listing in the Chamber directory, referrals through the Chamber office, and your promotional materials displayed prominently in the Chamber lobby and in relocation & new resident packets (over 100 per month).

NETWORK WITH OTHER BUSINESS PEOPLE

*The Chamber holds a number of networking events for its members and opportunities to meet local and state officials. **A new initiative for 2011 is our "Lunch in the City" supporting a different business each week.***

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

You are encouraged to browse the Chamber's Business Resource Center and get your copy of "How to Start & Grow a Business in Balch Springs". You can also browse over 1,000 books, resources and software on business topics and 'check these out' as a Chamber member.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Chamber hosts various Business Seminars each year with topics of interest to business owners including information on cutting edge technology. The Chamber recognizes the importance of education and its impact on our business community.

Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 800095 • 4000 Pioneer Road, Suite 201A
Balch Springs, Texas 75180

WHAT IS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens who are investing their time in a community development program working together to improve the economic, civic, and cultural fortitude of the region, area and community.

Any resident who is interested in helping to develop the community is eligible to be a member of the Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce. The direct benefits are a stronger local economy: more business and more jobs with higher salaries and better fringe benefits.

The work of the Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce is partially financed by the investments of its members. The dues are structured to permit even the smallest business to be a member.

A board of directors, elected from the general membership, guides the Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce, setting goals and policies for the advancement of its members.

WHAT DOES THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DO?

The Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce is a service institution as well as an action institution. It provides a medium through which people can take effective action for the progress of the community.

The Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce provides the opportunity for members to network with other business leaders and to attend business education seminars, thereby increasing their business capacity. This education of our business members is just one way in which the Chamber of Commerce is working to retain jobs and create new ones.

The Chamber of Commerce works with the City's Economic Development Office to stimulate industrial and commercial growth.

And the Chamber of Commerce helps to prepare our youth to take their place in the workforce as our aging population retires (50% of our workforce will retire in the next 3-5 years leaving a tremendous shortage of skilled and trained workers)

In all of the functions The Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce is serving as a partner to every business and professional in the community.

BALCH SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

4000 Pioneer Road, Suite 201A

P. O. Box 800095, Balch Springs, TX 75180

Phone 972.557.0988 Fax 972.584.0320

www.balchspringschamber.org info@balchspringschamber.org

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Member Benefits Include:

- Listing on Chamber website
- Free listing in the Chamber print directory
- Your promotional materials/business cards displayed in the Chamber Office at Pioneer Oaks Shopping Center
- Your promotional materials displayed in the lobby of Prosperity Bank
- Membership Plaque to display in your business
- Networking opportunities through Chamber events
- Referrals through the Chamber office and member network
- Placing your flyer/business card in new resident and relocation packets (80-100 packets monthly)
- Member2Member Discount Program
- Free checkout of materials from Business Resource Center
- Opportunity to list job openings on our website at no charge
- Address labels for the entire Chamber membership (180 businesses & growing)
- Advocacy for issues that affect your business

As a Chamber Member you can also **Showcase Your Business** by:

- Scheduling an open house or ribbon cutting ceremony for your business
- Donating a raffle item to a monthly Chamber luncheon or event
- Placing an ad on the Chamber website (from \$35 per month)
- Sponsoring a Chamber "mixer" (provide location & refreshments; approx. cost \$250)
- Purchasing a sponsorship table at the Gala & Awards Banquet, Fall 2011; 300 attended in 2010)

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Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce 2011 Program of Work

I. Promote visibility of the business community and workforce education through:

- **SPRING EXPO MARCH 17**—connecting the community to local businesses and resources; connecting entrepreneurs to business opportunities; providing a ‘shop till you drop’ atmosphere for the community
- **YOUTH CAREER PROJECT/GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE WEEKEND, APRIL 15-17, 2011** – providing education and job opportunities through an annual job skills workshop and job fair to over 300 youth; and a community service project in 2011
- **Business Seminar Series, ongoing** – providing education through a quarterly series to approximately 150 business leaders annually
- **TECHNOLOGY PROJECT, ONGOING** – continuing an upgrade of Chamber technology and providing education in technology for the general public, youth and senior citizens since spring 2008
- **ONLINE JOB BANK** – connecting job seekers to employers online
- **YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM**

II. Promote business retention through educational opportunities and advocacy:

- **BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER**— connecting job seekers, start-up entrepreneurs, and new and emerging businesses to critical information and resources that can assist them in developing skills and gaining self-sufficiency. The center contains over 800 books, trade publications, audio and visual resources for the purposes of educating the local workforce and business community.
- **ADVOCACY FOR YOUR BUSINESS** – The Chamber is a member of the Texas Association of Businesses. We receive the latest legislative information affecting business in Texas and participate in chapter meetings and conferences. We send a representative to the various city board and city council meetings. We maintain good relationships with our Senator and State Representative as well as our Congress Reps.

III. Provide business networking opportunities through:

- **Luncheons; breakfasts and after hours events**
- **Annual Awards Banquet**



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PO Box 800095
Balch Springs, Texas 75180
972.557.0988

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Company: _____

Contact: _____

Address: _____ Suite: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Mobile/Cell: _____ E-Mail: _____

Would you prefer to have notices regarding Chamber events e-mailed or faxed? (circle one)

Web Address: _____

Referred by: _____

Please select your membership amount according to the level below.

- \$80 _____ Nonprofit / Church
- \$80 _____ Business Level I (1-4 Employees)
- \$100 _____ Business Level II (5-20 Employees)
- \$150 _____ Business Level III (21-50 Employees)
- \$300 _____ Business Level IV (51-100 Employees)
- \$400 _____ Business Level V (101-250 Employees)
- \$500 _____ Business Level VI (251 & up Employees)

- I am mailing my Membership
- Please bill me
- I would like to give _____% business discount to Chamber Members

The information you provide will help introduce your company product and services to other Chamber Members as well as people who visit the web site.

Business Type/Description of Product or Services: _____

CREDIT / DEBIT CARD PURCHASE

Please fill in the information below.

Name on card _____

Card type _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover

Card number _____

Expiration date ____/____

3 digit code _____

Amount of donation: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Ribbon Cutting

Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce

RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ribbon cuttings usually last 1 to 2 hours.
- Hosts provide food & beverages for attendees. Hosts often use the opportunity to provide a raffle, discounts, or a free gift.
- Hosts are encouraged to invite their own guests, customers and clients.
- Ribbon Cuttings should be planned one month in advance for publicity in the Chamber newsletter and for availability of Chamber members.
- The Chamber provides ribbon, scissors, photos, publicity and invitations to special guests such as: Mayor, City Manager, etc.

Call:
972.557.0988

info@balchspringschamber.org

www.balchspringschamber.org



PUBLICITY

Pre-Event

Publicity for the event will be:

- Posted on the Chamber website.
- Printed in the Balch Springs Sentinel (as space permits) if planned one month in advance.
- Emailed to distribution list of 800 businesses/individuals.
- Sent to local newspapers as press releases if planned one month in advance.*

Post-Event

A photo and caption will be:

- Posted on the Chamber website
- Placed in the Chamber e-newsletter
- Sent to local newspapers.*

*Note: Materials sent to the press are not guaranteed to be published.

Please fax this form **at least one month prior to the proposed date** to: 972-584.0320.

Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Business Address: _____

Proposed Date & Time _____

SPECIAL NOTES:

BALCH SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SIGN UP TO HOST A BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MIXER

Showcase Your Business * Mix 'n Mingle * Network * Meet Company Representatives

Host a Business After Hours Mixer! Mixers are typically on a Tuesday or Thursday, 6-8 pm. Mixers are among the most popular of the chamber networking opportunities and draw people from a variety of business categories with 40-60 in attendance. Mixers are designed to showcase the mixer host as well as provide plenty of opportunities for Chamber members to generate business leads and contacts.



Your company provides the setting, refreshments, entertainment and anything else that helps showcase your business and foster networking. Host the event at your business or choose from locations such as: La Quinta Inn, the Balch Springs Chamber facility or a local restaurant.

The Chamber will take reservations, make name tags, plus meet and greet guests freeing you to mix and mingle.

MARKETING: The event will be promoted through:

Email and Broadcast Fax to over 1,800 addresses

You can submit a list of additional email addresses/fax #s for inclusion at no charge.

Postcards, Event Flyers to Chamber members

You can submit a list of additional addresses and postage to cover mailing costs.

Inclusion on chamber website

You can submit a list of additional addresses and postage



Yes, I am interested in hosting an after hours mixer. Please contact me.

Name _____ Company _____

Telephone _____ Email or Fax _____

Month Desired _____ Preferred Day of the Week _____

Theme _____

Please complete and return to: Balch Springs Chamber of Commerce
Fax 972.584.0320 Phone 972.557.0988 info@balchspringschamber.org