

Frequently Asked Questions Jax Chamber Councils



What is a Chamber Council?

The JAX Chamber Councils are strategic business-focused groups offering a platform for Chamber members and their employees to become actively involved in the business community. Through this collaboration, members bring together the wealth of talent, experience and expertise to advance both their business and the greater Northeast Florida region.

Six Councils are geographic:

- Arlington
- Downtown
- Mandarin
- North
- South
- West

Four are specialty Councils:

- Health Council
- JAX Information Technology Council (JITC)
- Professional Women's Council (PWC)
- Transportation & Logistics Council (T&L)

Why should I join a Chamber Council?

Council participation may help you:

- build relationships with other professionals in your region or industry
- stay informed of issues and gain advice on business concerns from fellow business owners
- participate in community service projects while networking with Chamber members
- locate supplies and services for your business
- market your products and services to business professionals who are also consumers
- receive referrals from fellow members

Who belongs to the Chamber Councils?

Council members are business owners and professionals who want to establish meaningful business connections. They are interested in doing business together. They are also interested in professional development and learning from each other about their industry and their business community.

When and where do Councils meet?

Visit www.myjaxchamber.com/get-involved/councils. The matrix at the bottom of the page contains Council meeting times, dates, locations and costs. Council presidents and their phone numbers are listed there to provide further information.

What happens at Council meetings?

Before Council meetings start, members network and make connections. Self-introductions often start the meeting. Typical agenda items include a keynote speaker, a spotlight speaker promoting their business, members thanking other members for doing business together, and door prize giveaways. Members enjoy a meal together. Afterwards many members stay to network and plan follow up conversations.

How should I prepare for a Council meeting?

To save check-in time and money, visit your Council's website before the meeting and register to attend. While online, review the Council's online roster to see which Council members you want to meet at the meeting. In addition, please do the following:

- Bring plenty of business cards. You are welcome to also bring literature about your company to put on the information table.
- Prepare a fifteen-second self-introduction with your name, company, tag line and how you help customers.
- You may want to bring a door prize to promote your business. This is optional.
- If you have a professional name badge, wear it. If you don't have one, sticky nametags are available.

How should I dress for a Council meeting?

Most members wear either business casual or more formal business attire. Your attire depends on the type of business you represent or your individual preference.

How can I gain more visibility for my business in the Councils?

Consider becoming a spotlight speaker for your Council. You'll get five minutes to promote your company and products to members. You can put literature on every table. Meeting invitations will highlight you as the spotlight speaker. The cost for this varies by Council.

Attending a Council lunch ladder each month will also increase visibility. You will meet with six to eight members from different Councils over lunch, with enough time to really get to know each another and share information about your business. Click here to sign up for a [Council Lunch Ladder](#).

How can I join a Council?

Chamber members, including employees of Chamber member companies, can join Councils for only \$35 per person, per year. The easiest ways to join a Council are to join online at myjaxchamber.com or complete an application at a Council meeting.

Can I send another person from my company in my place to a Council meeting?

Yes, but they will be asked to join the Council or pay the guest price to attend the meeting. Council memberships are individual, unlike Chamber memberships that are by organization. You must be an employee of a Chamber member company to join a Council.

Is there a limit to the number of employees from a company who can join the Councils?

There is no employee limit. Many companies encourage their employees to become Council members. Council membership can appeal to different employees, depending on their role in the company and the company's need for community involvement and exposure.

How do members get involved in their Council?

Council members usually do these things when moving from beginner to active participant:

- Join the Chamber and Council. Receive email invitations to meetings and activities.
- Attend Council meetings, networking socials and lunch ladders, plus Chamber meetings and events
- Get to know members through these activities. Refer business to them. Get business and referrals in return. Get advice from members & Chamber staff about how to grow your business.
- For those who want leadership opportunities and more ways to network, join a Council committee or task force, or volunteer for an event. Then become a Council committee co-chair, a Council board member and a committee chair.

How can I learn which Councils I might like?

Every Council is very different, reflecting its leadership and geography or specialty. You may visit each Council up to two times as a guest to see which ones you like before joining. You may want to join sooner since guests usually pay more and your Council may offer new members a discounted meal. You also may want to join more than one Council.

Is there a Beaches Council?

The Beaches Division is not a Council. It is a separate division of the JAX Chamber. All active JAX Chamber members are eligible to participate in Beaches Division activities. For more information, email beaches@myjaxchamber.com.

If you have a question that is not answered here, please visit www.myjaxchamber.com/get-involved/councils or contact John Bryan, Councils director, at john.bryan@myjaxchamber.com or (904) 273-5366.