

Business Tool Tip

Many small businesses take the opportunity to get involved in their local community and support a charity. Nonprofits and charities are constantly looking for funding to help accomplish their goals, and giving can be really beneficial for your business.

Here are the five reasons your business should support a charity.

1. Tax Deductions
2. Employee Benefits
3. Free Publicity
4. Gain Customer Support
5. Giving Back is Good for You

For the details visit: <http://www.pktaxservices.com/?p=2667>

Individual Tool Tip

Not all gifts from family come free and some can come with a headache if you're not careful. When you inherit property, there are tax implications that need to be considered and a discussion with someone knowledgeable on the subject is advised.

Before you sign papers and move in, you need to review these four considerations.

- The tax man will apply taxes
- You might owe mortgage payments
- Family isn't always friendly
- Upkeep and repairs are required

Read the full details: <http://www.pktaxservices.com/?p=2416>

Lifestyle News to Use

Experience the beauty of your surroundings when you camp under the stars. Whether you are roughing it in a tent or renting a cabin by the lake, Illinois has some beautiful spots for you to enjoy.

1. Public Campgrounds offer the best outdoor activities & well-maintained facilities.
2. Park Rangers have loads of insight so be sure to ask about hidden treasures.
3. Healthy Neighbors know how to respect those in the next tent as well as the nature around them.
4. Gear is Great but pack only the essentials as this is a time to rough it.

Check the website for the best sites in Illinois. <http://www.pktaxservices.com/?p=2340>

Education Benefits Available No double benefits allowed

An education credit helps with the cost of higher education by reducing the amount of tax owed on your tax return. If the credit reduces your tax to less than zero, you may get a refund. There are two education credits available: the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) and the Lifetime Learning Credit (LLC).

A deduction reduces the amount of income that is subject to tax, thus generally reducing the amount of tax you may have to pay. The tuition and fees deduction can reduce the amount of your income subject to tax by up to \$4,000.

You can't take more than one education benefit for the same student using the same expenses. So, you can't take the AOTC, the LLC or the tuition and fees deduction for the same expenses for the same student in the same tax year. Also, if you receive tax-free educational assistance, such as a grant, you need to subtract that amount from your qualified education expenses.

For a comparison of criteria: <http://www.pktaxservices.com/?p=2743>

Doing Business in Multiple States It's time to take a closer look

For a long time, "doing business in another state" simply meant setting up shop in a state other than your state of residency. These days, there's a lot more to it. Do you have customers in other states? Do you sell your goods online? Do you have an employee who telecommutes from another state?

The state where your principal business activities occur is where you should register your business. If you want to operate in another state, generally you should obtain a certificate of authority to do business from that state's Secretary of State. A certificate of authority usually costs about \$150, but can vary.

How a state defines business activities and what is considered "doing business" varies state to state. For detailed information on a particular state's requirements, contact that state's business registration office or state Secretary of State. Examples of what constitutes doing business in a state may include:

- Establishing physical presence by opening a new business location.
- Hiring employees.
- Soliciting business, which could mean using the Internet, mail, telephone, or print or media advertisements to conduct sales.

Many states will subject your business to state and local income and sales taxes. Due to budget strains, many states are now enforcing their laws in order to raise revenue.

Some states maintain a list of safe harbor activities that don't constitute "doing business." A type of activity that is often included on these lists is maintaining a bank account within a state's borders. However, many state statutes don't specifically define what they consider to be "doing business" in their jurisdiction. It usually depends on the facts of each case.

2015 Standard Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2015 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2015, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck will be:

- 57.5 cents per mile for business miles driven, up from 56 cents in 2014
- 23 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down half a cent from 2014
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile, including depreciation, insurance, repairs, tires, maintenance, gas and oil. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs, such as gas and oil. The charitable rate is set by law.

Taxpayers always have the option of claiming deductions based on the actual costs of using a vehicle rather than the standard mileage rates.

Want more Up to-the Minute tax information?
<http://pktaxservices.com/blog>

Pat's Pick



Summers are short but can be an incredibly adventurous season. If you have children, planning events that are fun for everyone can be tricky.

Here are some of my, not so obvious, favorites:

1. American Toby Jug Museum Located in Evanston view the largest collection in the world: more than 6,000 pieces and some from 1765.
2. Superman Statue Located in Metropolis have your photo taken with the 15-foot tall statue of the Man of Steel then stop into the Super Museum.
3. Worlds Largest Catsup Bottle Head to Collinsville to admire the 170-foot tall bottle..
4. Popeye Character Trail Visit Chester and search the town for murals and statues of Popeye, Olive Oyl, Swee' Pee, Wimpy and others.
5. Bald Knob Cross Located in Alto Pass this national symbol of faith is 111 foot tall and illuminated at night.

Did you Know...

Twinkies were invented in Chicago in 1930 and before closing 106 million Twinkies were produced annually.

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