

SPOKANE BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2024 MEMBERSHIP

We are profoundly grateful for your interest in the Spokane Buddhist Temple. By joining or renewing your membership, you honor the legacy of those who founded this Temple in 1945 and help provide a broad and deep base of support to sustain the sangha far into the future. Your membership pledge is an acknowledgment of your commitment to bringing the Dharma to the Spokane area so that everyone interested can hear the teachings of the Buddha and learn about the rich heritage of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Your pledge is a concrete example of dana, or selfless giving. Dana is usually listed first among the Buddhist paramitas, or virtues to be cultivated. At SBT, this takes the form of pledges and monetary contributions, gifts in kind, and volunteer efforts to maintain the Temple and sustain the sangha.

Membership Levels and Benefits

Sustaining Members pledge \$300 or more.

Young Members are under 30 and pledge \$50.

Both sustaining and young members are eligible to serve as Trustees and can vote in all Temple elections. They are members of our parent organization, the Buddhist Churches of America, and receive the BCA's monthly publication The Wheel of Dharma.

When To Pledge and How To Pay

Renewals are due in November. This facilitates our planning and budgeting for the upcoming year. New members who join earlier in the year can pledge a prorated amount of \$25 per month; please consult the SBT treasurer or bookkeeper.

Pledge payments can be made in the following ways:

- check
- credit card
- e-check from your financial institution
- cash

You can choose the number of separate payments you make:

- annual (1 payment)
- semi-annual (2 payments)
- quarterly (4 payments)
- monthly (12 payments)

Where Your Money Goes

Membership pledges and other cash donations from sangha members make up close to a third of SBT's annual revenue. Although as a religious nonprofit we do not pay property tax on the Temple, our expenses include utilities, insurance, building and grounds maintenance, security, travel and honoraria for visiting ministers, subsidies for ministers' education, and dues to the BCA and NW District. SBT spends a total of about \$60,000 each year to bring the Dharma to Spokane.

Tax Info

If you itemize your Federal income tax, you may be able to deduct your contributions to the Temple. If you take a Required Minimum Distribution from your retirement accounts, you may be able to designate those funds to go to SBT. Please consult a tax professional for details applicable to your situation.

What We Do With Your Information

We provide your name and mailing address to the BCA. We do not share any information about sangha members with any other individuals or organizations.

SPOKANE BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2024 PLEDGE FORM

Amount pledged for Spokane Buddhist Temple membership for 2024: _____

Additional donation to support Temple activities in 2024: _____

Method of payment (check one): check _____; e-check _____; credit card _____; cash _____

Frequency of payment (check one): annually _____; semi-annually _____; quarterly _____; monthly _____

Please return your completed pledge form to the SBT office and consult the SBT Treasurer for further details if needed. Members will receive a summary of all pledges and contributions they made in 2024 in January 2025.

Name(s) PRINTED and signature(s):

Phone(s):

Email address(es): _____

Physical address(es):



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