

How to Implement a Successful Pokemon TCG Program

Kyle Bartoszek & Kelly Nemitz



Who we are



Kelly Nemitz

Youth Services Associate

Lincoln Township Public Library in Stevensville, Michigan



Who we are



Kyle Bartoszek

Youth Programming Specialist

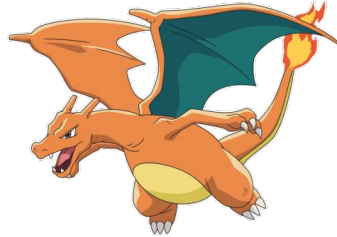
Bridgman Public Library in Bridgman, Michigan



Why should you implement a Pokemon program at your Library?

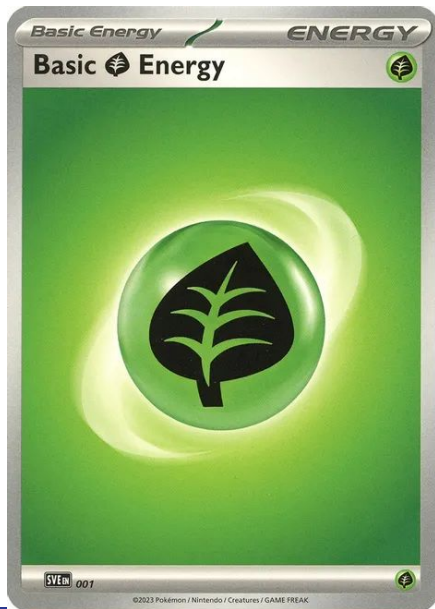
The Pokemon Trading Card Game (TCG) can help kids with:

- Quick math skills
- Evaluation of worth
- Sportsmanship
- Problem Solving
- How to read and understand rules as written



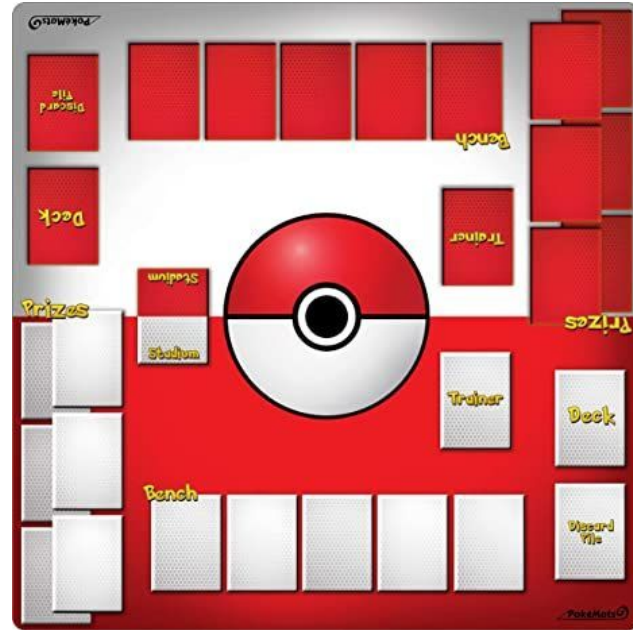
Basics on How to Play Pokemon TCG

- 1 Deck = 60 cards
- You need at least 1 Basic Pokemon in your deck
- No more than 4 copies of each card (except basic Energy)



...okay, but why Pokemon and not some other game?

- Popular and running strong for over 25 years
- Lots of resources online
- Easy for kids to learn how to play
- Kids love Pokemon
- Cheap



What are potential obstacles to setting up a Pokemon Program at your library?

- Staff to kid ratio
- Initial supply buy-in
- Getting parents on board with the TCG



LTPL Pokemon History



This was an inherited program:

- Kids more interested in trading than playing the game
- Not a lot of desire to learn how to play the game
- One staff member dedicated to run the program initially



LTPL Pokemon History



The gym badge era

- Introduced the gym badges as rewards for learning how to play the game
- More kids wanted to learn to play...
- ... but only so far as challenging the gym deck in order to win prizes
- Trivia was a good idea in theory



LTPL Pokemon History

Post gym Era

- Down to one programmer
- More involvement with kids & parents wanting to learn
- Mix of kids playing and trading
- Still get requests for gym badges



BPL Pokemon History



Started from the ground up

- Low initial participant numbers
- Custom built learning decks



BPL Pokemon History

The Boys and Girls Club Era

- Reached out to partner with BGC
- More attendance
- Most participants want to play the game
- Heavy use of club “expert trainers” to teach new people



Lessons to learn from us

- Keep the program simple
- Get the parents involved
- Make sure that you stay on top of rules changes to Pokemon



Getting Started at your library

Supplies

- 2 or more Pokemon deck for kids to learn with
- Damage markers of some variety (dice work amazingly well for this)
- At least one member of staff that understands the game and can answer questions



Getting Started at your library

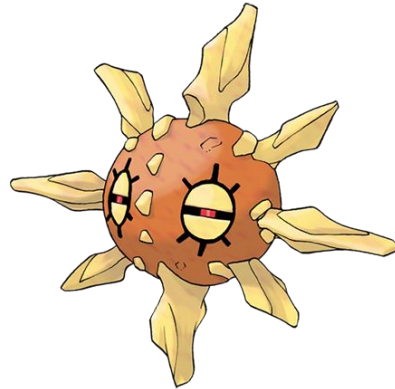
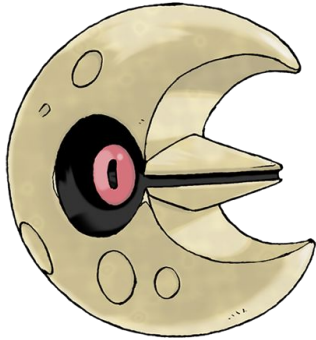
Smart additions to your supplies

- Quick Rules Guides
- Parents Guides
- Deck boxes and Card Sleeves



Our Library Pokemon League Rule Set

- 1.) Be a good sport, both in wins and losses
- 2.) Decks must be legal in some format
- 3.) There are always opportunities to learn the game
- 4.) Respect when someone says no.
- 5.) You are expected to know the value of your cards when you trade

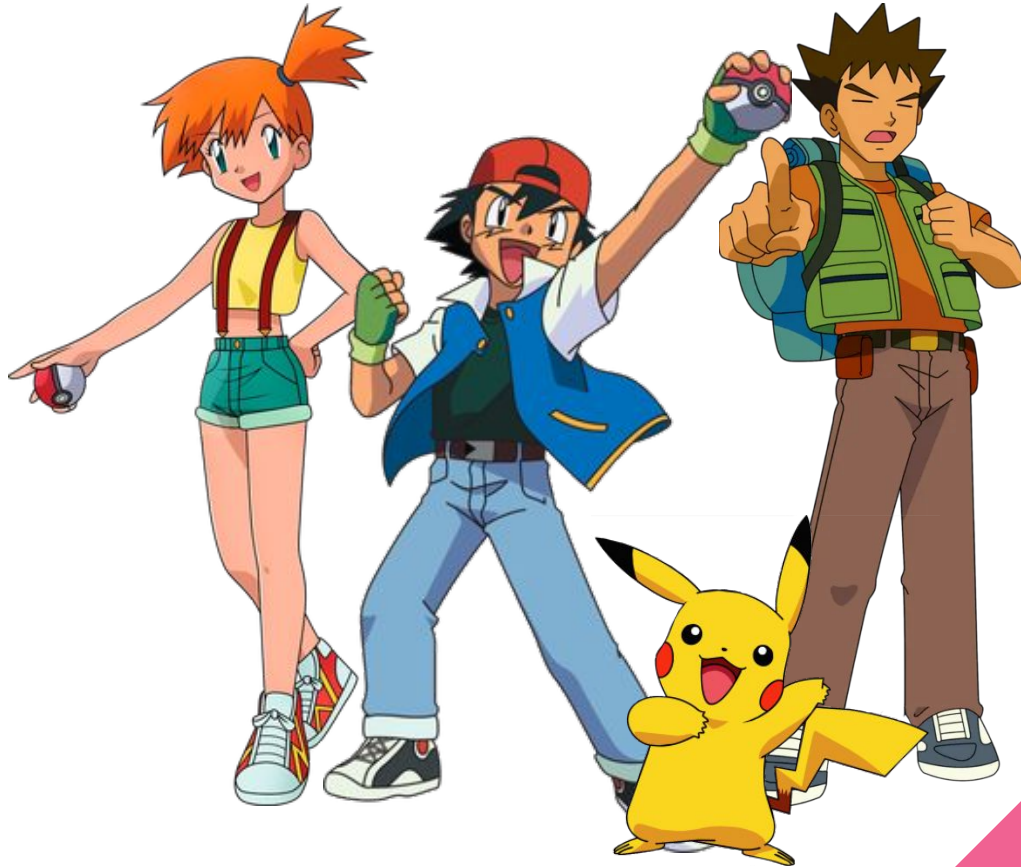


General Tips, Trick, and Advice moving forward

- Get the parents involved
- Disincentivize buying packs of cards as much as possible
- Seek out local game stores that sell Pokemon cards to partner with
- Look for partnership opportunities with other organizations



Questions?



Do you want to be the very best?

...Like no one ever was

We will be at **The Brewers Lounge at Pigeon Hill** this evening at **6:30 pm** if anyone would like to learn how to play the Pokemon TCG. This is *not* affiliated with Spring Institute.



Contact Us

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