



# THE PROFESSOR'S MINUTE

*Pokémon League is a fun and accessible way for Pokémon fans to get together and have some fun! League events are open to all Pokémon TCG and video game players regardless of experience level or skill. Using your own cards and Pokémon video games, you can play, trade, and even earn cool prizes! The best part is that you can do all this with other Pokémon players who love collecting and playing just as much as you do.*

**November - December 2018**



## November League Promo

November 2018 Promo card for this season will be the Beast Ring #102 Item Card. Be sure to get a new score sheet at the beginning of each month and update your score sheet often. Check in with the league leader table to ensure you are getting your play points



## December League Promo

December 2018 Promo card for this season will be the Celesteela #100. Be sure to get a new score sheet at the beginning of each month and update your score sheet often. Check in with the league leader table to ensure you are getting your play points

## Pokemon League Holiday Schedule

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday from my family to yours! The following list is a schedule of our Pokemon Leagues that will not be having Pokemon League during the holiday season.

### Pokemon League Holiday Schedule

No Pokemon League on the following days:

#### Easley Pokemon League

November 22 - No Pokemon League  
December 27 - No Pokemon League

#### Red Barn Pokemon League - Greenville

December 25 - No Pokemon League  
January 1, 2019 - No Pokemon League

#### Planet Comics Pokemon League - Anderson

December 23 - No Pokemon League  
December 30 - No Pokemon League

#### Central-Clemson Pokemon League

December 24th - No Pokemon League

We will announce other Pokemon League closings when available.

## Operation Pikaclaus



DOING THE MOST GOOD™

For the past several years we have been collecting Pokemon Theme decks to donate to organizations that provide children with Christmas gifts that would be less fortunate during the Christmas Holiday. Starting November 1st through December 1st we will begin to collect theme decks and prepare to deliver them to this year's partnering organization The Salvation Army of Pickens County. This year along with Pokemon Theme Decks, I would like to also include toys (Pokemon related toys would be great!).

According to Jim Abbott, The Salvation Army, Pickens County Service Center Unit Director, children have actually requested Pokemon items on their Christmas wishlist.

On December 10, 2018 we will have a charity fundraising tournament called Operation Pikaclaus. The tournament will be held at the Red Barn 2333 N Pleasantburg Dr Greenville. This tournament is an unlimited format tournament. Entry into the tournament will be \$15 or donation of a Pokemon Theme deck or toy. Pokemon Theme decks can also be purchased at The Red Barn before the event. Our goal is to donate a case of theme decks and as many toys as many as we can gather to donate to children for the holiday season.

Thank you to all participants over the past few years to make Operation Pikaclaus a huge success. If you have any questions please see our website at [www.easleypokemongym.gq](http://www.easleypokemongym.gq) or see Mr. Jeff for further details.





# THE PROFESSOR'S MINUTE

November - December 2018

## Pokemon Event Central

### November

- 3- League Challenge - Standard Greenville - Red Barn
- 10 - Operation Pikaclus Charity Tournament - Unlimited - Greenville
- 17 - League Challenge - Standard - Easley

### December

- 1 - League Challenge - Expanded Greenville - Red Barn
- 15 - League Challenge - Expanded Easley - Easley Library

### January 2019

- 5 - League Challenge - Standard - Greenville, Red Barn
- 19 - Prerelease- Greenville - Red Barn
- 19 - Prelease - Anderson - Planet Comics
- 20- Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics
- 22- Prerelease - Greenville - Red Barn
- 26- Prerelease - Greenville - Red Barn
- 26 - Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics
- 27 - Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics

### February 2019

- 2 - League Challenge - Expanded - Greenville - Red Barn

## Pokemon League Holiday Parties

We have had a great year of Pokemon in 2018. All of our leagues have seen some great battles and lots of Pokemon fun. I want to personally thank everyone for the support you have given our Pokemon Leagues here in the Upstate. We continue to grow and share our love of Pokemon with each other. I'm looking forward to what 2019 would have in store for our Pokemon Leagues. Continue to invite your friends and family to experience the Pokemon League with you.

As we approach the Holiday Season I feel it is important to celebrate them with friends and family. We are planning our holiday parties in our leagues. We are asking our players to please bring in some holiday related treats for our parties so we may share the magic of the holidays with each other. I am planning on special gift bags for our Junior and Senior players during these parties.

### The following leagues will have Holiday parties:

- December 9 - Planet Comics Pokemon League - Anderson
- December 18 - Red Barn Pokemon League - Greenville
- December 20- Easley Pokemon League - Easley

Please see Mr. Jeff or our other league leaders if you would like to help with our holiday parties.



## Deck Lab - Basic Deck Building

Welcome back to Deck Lab. We now will continue the card breakdown of Pokemon Deck Building.

EX Cards have higher HP scores, strong attacks, and the power to have entire decks built around them. EX cards are basics, so they can be played immediately rather than forcing you to wait several turns to evolve. EX cards have a special ruling: When they're knocked out, your opponent takes two prize cards rather than one. This makes them high risk, high reward because the benefits they offer are balanced by the idea that your opponent gains more from bringing them down. It should also be noted that EX cards are older, and transitioning out of the Pokémon Trading Card Game, meaning building around them is getting harder as they become more and more outclassed.

Mega Pokémon EX (M Pokémon EX) cards bring intense raw strength, abilities, and effects into the TCG. Just like regular EX cards, M Pokémon EX cards are worth two prizes each, making them brutal but with a constant risk. M Pokémon EX cards take this risk to a whole new level, offering even higher HP totals and even more damaging attacks.

However, there are several huge risks to building a deck around one of these monsters. Just like with Stage One and Two cards, Mega Evolution take a turn to evolve. This means that not only are you risking two prizes, but you need to wait a turn or more just to get the full payoff. Another main trade-off is that unlike regular evolution, when you evolve into an M Pokémon EX, your turn immediately ends, unless you have that particular M Pokémon EX spirit link attached. You can still play items, attach energy, and play tactically, but the moment you play down your Mega Evolution, it becomes your opponent's turn. If you don't have the spirit link you have to wait at least one turn to evolve, but you may have to wait even more turns to start attacking with your mega card. Just like regular EX cards, M Pokémon EX cards are steadily being pushed out of the game in favor of newer mechanics. These cards are insanely powerful, but they need entire decks to be dedicated around them, and many aren't worth it due to just how much support they need.

### BREAK Cards

BREAK cards are a special type of evolution introduced back in November of 2015. A BREAK card is a special 'level up' that adds an HP boost and either a great attack or a great ability. You'll still need to wait a turn to put a BREAK into play if you want to evolve with it, as it is an evolution stage of the Pokémon you're trying to evolve. Overall, BREAKs are cards that typically require a lot of support, with more or less depending on what evolutionary line you're building around.

### GX Pokémon Cards

GX cards are a blend of basic EXs, Stage One cards, and Stage Two cards. They have high HP, powerful attacks, great abilities, and a host of other attributes. GXs are a generally more balanced type of card. Just like EX cards, knocking out your opponent's GX gives you two prize cards rather than one, so these cards still have power at a price.

GX attacks are a new mechanic introduced recently into the Pokémon TCG game. Much like how Sun and Moon have ultra powerful Z Moves that can be used once a battle, GX moves are incredibly powerful effects that can be used once a match. Some GX attacks do incredible amounts of damage, others mess with your opponent's Active Pokémon, benched Pokémon, or hand, while many more help your Pokémon or help you get cards into your hand. All GX attacks are unique to the card, so rather than all Fire-type GXs getting Inferno Overdrive, Incineroar GX will have a different GX attack than say Turtonator GX. Because these attacks are so powerful but so limited in use, GX attacks are all about timing. Some decks want to get their GX card out as early as



### Deck Lab - Deck Building Basic - Continued

possible with the goal of using their GX attack ASAP. Others want to wait for an emergency situation or the ideal time to disrupt the opponent. These cards are really fun, and part of why the Sun and Moon generation of the TCG is the most refreshing era in years.

#### Prism Star Cards

One of the newest cards introduced in Ultra Prism. These cards have powerful Pokémon attacks or have very strong trainer cards that effect a Pokémon or even both players. These power cards are only allowed one copy in your deck. You may have all Prism cards in your deck, just only one copy of each is allowed.

A Breakdown of Trainer Cards and the Roles They Play Trainer Cards are the tools that make your deck flow the way it should. Some of these cards are staples, with competitive players running four copies, the usual limit, in every deck. Others are highly situational, being added in to beat a certain deck, or outright useless in most match-ups.

These are the cards that make decks consistent and the absolute key to victory is often one's Trainer card lineup.

#### Item Cards

Item cards are similar to Basic Pokémon cards in that during your turn, you can play them immediately and immediately take advantage of their effects. Some items let you search for cards in your deck, others let you heal your Pokémon, retreat your Pokémon, or disrupt your opponent.

There's a tremendous diversity in items with some being designed to be used at the right moment while others can be played as often as you want to reap the benefit. These cards are extremely powerful and most decks run, at the very least, twelve Item cards. In a match, a timely item play can make your strategy flow much more smoothly or help you turn the tide against your opponent's deck.

Regardless of the situation, an Item card is an option that should always be considered!

Item cards also have a small subgroup:

#### Item - Tool Cards

Tool cards. Just like regular items, these cards can be played immediately during your turn. You can usually only equip one Tool card to each Pokémon card you have on the field. Tool cards are essentially perks or bonuses for your Pokémon. Some provide more HP, others more damage or easier retreat, but you only get one per Pokémon, so make your them count!

#### Supporter Cards

These cards are even more powerful than items, so much so that only one supporter can be played during your turn. Much like items, these cards are essential, as they shape the game and heavily influence turn by turn game-play.

The typical Supporter card count varies from deck to deck, but most decks run at least ten supporters. Sometimes your deck only needs one copy of a certain supporter to help get you what you need at the right time, while others like Professor Sycamore are often run with up to 4 copies!

### Pokemon Switch Games

Let's Go Pikachu and Let's Go Eevee share a lot with Pokemon Go, they utilize Pokemon Go's Pokemon capture mechanics, meaning you throw Poke Balls at wild Pokemon to catch them rather than battling them. You can also connect the Let's Go games to Pokemon Go via a Bluetooth connection, and you can transfer Pokemon from Pokemon Go into Let's Go (though not the other way around). Pokemon appear in the over-world before you can initiate capturing them, and you can send gifts to Pokemon Go from Let's Go as well.

However, the Let's Go games are Pokemon RPGs, and you explore the Kanto region just as you would in Red and Blue. While you can't battle wild Pokemon, you can battle NPCs and other players, and those battles use the turn-based system of the main Pokemon games. You get experience points both from catching Pokemon as well as battling other trainers, though the leveling system hasn't been finalized yet.

Pokemon Go is not required to play the Let's Go games.

When catching Pokemon in docked mode, you do have to use motion controls to throw Poke Balls. In handheld mode, motion-control aiming (using the gyroscope) is required, but you use the Joy-Con's buttons to actually throw the ball.

The first 150 Pokemon as well as their Alolan forms from Sun and Moon would appear in Let's Go Pikachu and Let's Go Eevee.

Mew will be available in the Let's Go games via the Poke Ball Plus controller. Every Poke Ball Plus will come with a Mew already stored on the device, and this is the only way to get Mew in the Let's Go games-- you won't be able to transfer Mew from Pokemon Go to Let's Go.

Your starter Pikachu or Eevee cannot evolve in the Let's Go games. However, other Pikachu or Eevee you catch or transfer can be evolved. Only Jolteon, Flareon, and Vaporeon are available out of Eevee's eight current evolutions.

Pokemon Let's Go Pikachu and Let's Go Eevee release on Nintendo Switch on November 16. Releasing alongside them (but sold separately) is the Poke Ball Plus controller, which is a Joy-Con-like peripheral you can use when catching Pokemon.



### Pokemon GO Community Day

#### What is Pokémon Go's Community Day event?

Designed to get players out and playing at a certain time, each limited-time event will offer featured Pokémon with a unique and exclusive move that will spawn for three hours, alongside a resource bonus - such as double XP, Stardust or Lure Modules - as incentives to get out there and playing.

September 22, 2018 and October 21, 2018 will be the next Pokemon Go Community Day. Be sure to check the Pokemon League monthly calendar and our website for more information on these exciting events.







### Deck Lab - Deck Building Basic - Continued

What's helpful for Supporter cards is that there are certain items and abilities that allow you to reuse them after they've been played. This means that even if you use up your supporter for the turn, you can get back the same effect when it's your turn again. Supporters are a vital way to keep your deck consistent and work well in tandem with item cards to help your deck flow. Many decks can run the same count of Supporter cards and still function strongly, so keep these cards in mind if you need some support!

#### Trainer Card Breakdown

#### Stadium Cards

Stadium cards are the final class of Trainer cards and are unique in that they provide a constant effect for both players. As soon as a Stadium card is put into play, the effect stays in play until the stadium is either removed or replaced by a different stadium. This effect can be helpful or disruptive, but regardless of whose turn it is, only one stadium can be in play at a time. Just like Supporter cards, each player can only play one Stadium card during their turn.

In the January - February 2018 newsletter we will continue to talk about Basic Deck building. We will cover other types of Pokemon cards such as Energy cards. If you have any questions please see Professor Jeff or any other League Leaders.

### Pokemon Leagues In Greer and Spartanburg

Our Pokemon Community continues to grow here in Upstate, South Carolina. Bo Finley, a Pokémon Professor (Basic) and Organizer (Basic), is taking initiative to organize Pokémon League and tournaments in Greer and Spartanburg County. He is seeking venues that would like to host Pokémon events and players to play at the events. If you are interested in Play! Pokémon events in Greer and Spartanburg County, contact Bo by phone at 864-238-1794 or by email at bopokemondragon@gmail.com.

### Color The Pokemon



### November Legendary Distribution

Two Legendary Pokémon will be distributed during the months of November 2018. They will be for Ho-Oh and Lugia. These Legendary Pokemon are for the Sun & Moon and the Ultra Sun & Moon Nintendo DS games. The codes are usually distributed through Game Stop codes, Best Buy Codes, Nintendo Downloads or even codes from Target. We will announce the events as they approach.

This will be the last distribution of Legendary Pokemon for the year.

### Get Happy with Pokémon at McDonald's

Something legendary is coming to McDonald's. Through November 12, Happy Meals at participating McDonald's restaurants will feature a toy figure of a Legendary Pokémon, as well as 1 of 12 cool promo cards for the Pokémon Trading Card Game. The cards feature a special foil treatment that can only be found in McDonald's Happy Meals.

The Legendary Pokémon-themed Happy Meals won't be around long, and they're only available while supplies last. Enjoy the fun of Pokémon the next time you open a Happy Meal at McDonald's!

### Leagues Supported By The Following...

*The Red Shed Coffee Shop is now open at the Captain Hampton Memorial Library in Easley. Get to the shop for a great cup of coffee, snacks, or a drink. Located inside the Library.*

*Boardwalk  
1175 Woods Crossing Rd, Greenville, SC  
29607  
(864) 297-6924*

*Boardwalk offers a large selection of games and has a great selection of Pokemon TCG and related products.*

*Da Zoo Games  
1003 Gentry Memorial Hwy. Easley, SC  
29640  
(864) 553-0190*

*Games for the entire family. Pokemon singles and other Pokemon products available.*

*The Red Barn  
2333 N. Pleasantburg  
Dr, Greenville, SC 29609  
(864) 412-7887*

*The Red Barn located across from Home Depot on N. Pleasantburg Dr carries a great selection of Pokemon, Magic the Gathering, War Hammer, Jewelry and Art. Coffee and snacks as well. Safe and clean. Very family friendly.*

*Planet Comics  
2704 N Main St, Anderson, SC  
29621  
Comics, Games, Pokemon Singles  
and TCG Merchandise*

*EMPIRE GAMES  
118 N McDuffie St, Anderson, SC 29621  
Phone: (864) 328-9418*

*We provide a well lit, well stocked, clean environment to enjoy your favorite tabletop games with your friends!*

*The Pickens County Library system, Captain Hampton Memorial Library staff, we thank you for all that you do and have done for the league over the years. We really appreciate all your efforts and hard work in our league. May we continue to find more Pokemon adventures into the future.*