

Games Night FAQ

Have you thought about attending a Games Night, but aren't really sure what to expect? Here are some Q&As about DAM's fairly regularly scheduled Games Night.

What kind of games do you play?

Board games, card games with regular decks, card games with special decks, not so many strategy games but that could change if people were interested, games that don't really fit into any category.

Does everyone play the same game?

Nope. There are often multiple games going at one time. That's why we own so many card tables!

Can you give some examples?

We play anything that someone brings as well as games we have. That includes old standbys such as *Trivial Pursuit*, *Pictionary*, or *euchre*; medium-aged games such as *Quiddler*, *Set*, *Apples to Apples*, *Catch Phrase*, and *Wizard*; newer games such as *Dominion*, *Backseat Drawing*, or *Ticket to Ride*; and a Region 3 favorite, *Double Deck Cancellation Go Fish Hearts*.

What if I don't recognize *any* of those games?

No problem. There's usually at least one new game at every Games Night—and sometimes more than one, so everyone is always learning something new. We even play some that are so new that *everyone* has to learn them! (Imagine that—a bunch of Mensans actually reading the rules!)

What if I want to start out playing a game I already know?

Just bring your favorite and teach some of us—we're always up for a new game.

Do you know how to play *Five Crowns*?

No, I don't, and I'd love to learn. I've had the game for years and have never played it. I keep hoping someone who knows will attend and teach me.

What about food?

Bring a snack to share—there's always a wide range of options, and you can bring something healthy, something decadent, something homey and comforting—your choice. If you're feeling ambitious, you can make something, or, if you're not very kitchen-oriented or pressed for time, just pick something up and bring it along.

What about beverages?

We'll have some soft drinks as well as some beer, but not a wide variety, so most people bring their beverage of choice.

I'm worried about not knowing anyone. Should I still come?

Absolutely. It can be hard to attend an event for the first time, but the host will make a point of being sure that you are introduced to everyone there.

Can I bring a friend/spouse?

Sure—and if you bring a game that both of you know, we'll have two instant teachers if they're needed.

Can I bring my kids?

Yes. (I assume that “as long as they’re well-behaved” is understood.) We don’t have many young-kid games anymore, although we have classics such as *Parcheesi* and *Sorry*. In November, we had two kids come—the 9 year old fell asleep on the couch, and the 11 year old played (with the adults) a new game (*In a Pickle*) that someone had brought. Our 16 year old is often in attendance.

What if it’s the kid that’s a member? Can the parents come?

Of course. There are two parts to that answer—one is that there’s a Mensa policy that requires the host to allow an adult to accompany their minor child. The second part is that Mensan kids tend to come from great families—that’s way more important than policy. (Okay, that shows my bias, as the mom to two M kids.)

How often is there a Games Night?

As often as someone steps up to host one. Stan and I host as often as we can fit it into our schedule—we aim for every other month. Other people (hi, John & Susan!) host as well. The next one is Saturday, January 14, 7:00 pm at Beth & Stan’s house.

How late does Games Night go?

It varies—it **really** varies. Some nights, everyone heads home between 11 and midnight. Other nights, some of us are still playing cards at 2:00 am (but not everyone stays that long).