

National PTA®

STEM
+ FAMILIES



Hosting a Successful ThinkFun Family Game Night



If you're planning to have a Game Night at your school, this guide is for you! It covers [Steps on How to Host a Game Night](#) and [Tips from Past Grantees](#).

Steps on How to Host a Game Night

Step 1: Involve Your Teachers (and support them with Math Dice!)

- Each Game Night bundle contains 12 sets of Math Dice for your PTA to share with your school's math teachers!
- Please set up a time to drop off the Math Dice with your math department.
- Be sure to invite teachers to come to the Game Night to see how much fun families and students can have playing STEM games!



Step 2: Plan Your Event

- Form a planning committee by inviting parents and teachers.
- Recruit volunteers to help during the Game Night. Check out these [tips for recruiting non-PTA volunteers](#).
- Identify a date and time.
- Organize your tasks, create a budget and schedule deadlines.

Step 3: Promote Your Event and Welcome ALL Families

- Put up flyers throughout your school and on your social media channels. Customize [this flyer template](#) or [this one](#) for your event!
- If your community is multi-lingual, consider translating your invitation into at least the most popular language other than English.
- Spread the word via multiple channels! Use this [template media advisory](#) and this [template press release](#).



Step 4: Make the Night Memorable!

- Consider hosting a STEM potluck or having volunteers make some STEM-themed food like this [healthy moon snack](#), [radioactive pizza](#) or [edible chocolate slime](#). If it's not feasible, order pizza or something else!
- Encourage all family members to participate in the fun by hosting your **Family Game Night**.
- [Create a passport](#) to make sure families get to try a variety of games.
- **Take lots of pictures** and share them on your school's Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram page using **#PTA4STEM** or in your school bulletin. Submit at least five photos from the event to the National PTA – use this [photo release](#) form.



Step 5: Use your 6 games as prizes

- **Raffle them off!** Give everyone a ticket for a chance to win free ThinkFun games! Select a winner at the end of your event.
- **Award them as a prize for most creative STEM snack!** Encourage people to bring STEM-related snacks and vote on the most creative snack.
- **Give them away as tournament prizes!** Host your Family Game Night [tournament-style](#) and see which family finishes four STEM game challenges first.
- **Single game prizes!** Whoever can solve the most difficult single player game challenge wins a prize.



Step 6: Help Families Learn More About STEM

Encourage everyone who attends your event (families, school staff, PTA members, etc.) to visit [PTA.org/STEM](https://pta.org/STEM) to learn more about STEM + Families and how they can get involved!

A screenshot of the National PTA website. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Donate', 'Join', and 'My PTA'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Run Your PTA', 'Advocacy', 'Family Resources', 'Events', 'Programs', and 'About PTA'. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text 'STEM + Families' and a background of various STEM-related icons like a rocket, a lightbulb, and a gear. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'National PTA's STEM Initiative: STEM + Families' with a sub-header 'National PTA School of Excellence'. The page includes social media sharing buttons (Like, Share, Tweet) and a description of the initiative: 'National PTA's STEM + Families initiative increases access to STEM education and careers, especially among under-represented youth, by developing, evaluating and sharing effective ways to engage families in STEM experiences, while working with partners to improve access to STEM school and community learning environments.' There is also a link to 'Check Out the Impact of Stem + Families:' with a small graphic.

Step 7: Share Your Feedback (and the Feedback of Attendees!)

At the end of the event, it is required that you fill out a [Program Leader Feedback form](#) so we can improve the resources offered to you and your experience can inform future events.

Also, have parents and students fill out [this online survey](#) (in Spanish [here](#)). They can complete it on mobile devices, or you can have a station with school computers or tablets. Use [this flyer](#) to direct people to the survey URL. Any PTA who gets at least 30 evaluations (parents and student surveys count as one) has a chance to win 15 additional games that we will ship to you for free.

Advice from Past Grantees

1. **Choose an event time** that works best for your families. You know your community – consider if it should be over dinner or right after school.
2. **Be creative when recruiting volunteers.** It can be a great opportunity for older students to volunteer (a fun way to gain community service credits, etc.) and partner with the community.
3. **Send volunteers information prior.** It can help if volunteers have an idea what ThinkFun is or what the games are so they feel more involved and prepared.
4. **Consider the age of your children.** If you are offering this to older students, make sure to be prepared with some of the more difficult games (and challenge parents to work with their kids to complete these “challenges”).
5. **Promote continued learning at home.** If families are interested in playing these games beyond the event, be sure to let them know they can purchase ThinkFun games with a special discount via [this order form](#).



Questions?

Please reach out to Rachel Fishman at rfishman@pta.org with any questions about hosting your Game Night.