



THE
**LORD
OF THE
RINGS**

TRADING CARD GAME

THE OFFICIAL LEAGUE

The Ranger's Manual

Welcome, League Ranger!

Thank you for joining Decipher's Trading Card Game universe and *The Lord of the Rings*™ Trading Card Game League program. This League Kit provides all of the tools you need to develop and maintain your *Lord of the Rings* TCG playing community. Follow the directions provided here and your in-store League will be off and running in no time.

Good luck on your Journey!

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Kit Contents

-  (1) *The Lord of the Rings* TCG League Poster – Use this poster to help advertise and support your League.
-  (1) *Ranger's Logbook* – Your guide for running *The Lord of the Rings* Trading Card Game Players' League. (You're reading it now.)
-  (18) *Ring-bearer's Journals* – Each League Member receives a *Ring-bearer's Journal* when he or she joins the League. Remind Members to bring them to all League events.
-  (1) *League Encounter Stamper* – Use this stamp to mark an Encounter circle (and the next square along the Journey path) as it is completed by a League Member.
-  (1) *Promotional window cling* – Use this cling to promote *The Lord of the Rings* TCG in your League location.



(18) *Deck Design cards* (6 each of 3 varieties) – Give one of these to each of your League Members when they join the League. This is a tool that League Members can use to help them improve their deckbuilding skills.



(18) *Prancing Pony Site Cards* – Reward your League Members with this alternate-image card at the beginning of the first League month.



(18) *Rivendell Site Cards* – Reward your League Members with this alternate-image card at the beginning of the second League month.



(18) *Mines of Moria Site Cards* – Reward your League Members with this alternate-image card at the beginning of the third League month.



(18) *Lothlórien Site Cards* – Reward your League Members with this alternate-image card at the beginning of the fourth League month.



(18) *Fireworks Premium Gameplay Cards* – Reward your League Members with this card when they earn eight stamps during a *Lord of the Rings* TCG Demo Party.



(18) *Bill the Pony Premium Gameplay Cards* – Reward your League members with this gameplay card when they complete the Bree Encounters.



(18) *Horn of Boromir Premium Gameplay Cards* – Reward your League members with this gameplay card when they complete the Rivendell Encounters.



(18) *Book of Mazarbul Premium Gameplay Cards* – Reward your League Members with this gameplay card when they complete the Mines of Moria Encounters.



(18) *Phial of Galadriel Premium Gameplay Cards* – Reward your League Members with this gameplay card when they complete the Lothlórien Encounters.

What is a League?

The *Lord of the Rings* Trading Card Game League is an organized group of individuals with a common interest in *The Lord of the Rings* TCG. The group will meet at regular times to share an exciting gameplay experience. *The Lord of the Rings* TCG League provides League Members with a fun, friendly environment that will jump-start the in-store playing community.

Though competitive play is the focus, *The Lord of the Rings* TCG League also has an added benefit: a system for building your long-term community. Gameplay within the League provides the competitive angle that appeals to all gamers, while the community aspect is developed through advancement to "Destinations." Both of these League elements can be tracked individually by each League Member using their Ring-bearer's Journal. League Members will begin their journeys in the Shire, then advance to Bree, Rivendell, the Mines of Moria, and Lothlórien by completing specific tasks over the course of several League months.

What motivates a League Member to continue playing after they enter *The Lord of the Rings* TCG League? Each League Member has the opportunity to earn four alternate-image site cards, indicating their progress through the League. A League Member also will earn preview gameplay cards during his Journey. In addition, there is a preview Fireworks card that League Members will receive for their participation in a *Lord of the Rings* TCG Demo Party at your store! These cards are sure to get players excited about playing *The Lord of the Rings* TCG in your store.

This 18-person kit provides you with all of the tools to create a rewarding *Lord of the Rings* TCG playing community, ensure regular patronage, and deliver incentives to attract new League Members.

How New Players Join

Welcome a new player into the League by doing the following:

- Present them with one Ring-bearer's Journal (this is the tool they use to track their progress in the League). You'll want to jot down the Level start date and League location in their Ring-bearer's Journal.
- Present them with one copy of a Deck Design card (chosen randomly).

Also log the name and contact information for each League Member in your Ranger's Logbook. Your newest League Member is now ready to begin his Journey!

Getting Started

To start a new League month, a Ranger should do the following:

- Contact your new League Members to remind them of the League start date.
- Start at the beginning of a month. The League is designed to allow League Members to travel one Destination per month.
- New Members may join the League and start their Journeys from the Shire at any time. Even if a League month is already under way, a new League Member may begin participating immediately. A delayed League Member may or may not need additional time during the next League month to advance to his next Destination.

During this time, they may also begin completing their required Encounters. Encounters are the tasks associated with completion of each League level. The completion of which is marked with the League stamper in the appropriate circle of the Ring-bearers journal.

Playing League Games

One of the most exciting elements of this League is its competitive play. League play offers all the competition of a tournament without the formalized structure and upkeep.

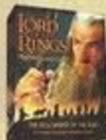
For a League game to count toward a Member's progression through the League, it must be played at the League location printed in the League Member's Ring-bearer's Journal.

When a League Member completes his first League game, he will bring his Ring-bearer's Journal to you. As League Ranger, you will stamp the appropriate Encounter circle. Each game played during the League (except sealed deck games) may only count toward one Encounter in the Ring-bearer's Journal.

You may find it beneficial to set one night a month as a League sealed deck night. Sealed deck games give League Members the opportunity to gain double credit for their game requirements for the League! They may earn a stamp for the "Play a sealed deck game" Encounter as well as any other Encounter that they complete during that sealed deck game. For more information about sealed deck events, refer to Decipher's Official Lord of the Rings TCG Tournament Guide. This option is another opportunity for a store owner to increase sales of *The Lord of the Rings* TCG. Give it a try!

Sealed Deck Tools:

Booster Packs, Starter Decks, and Deluxe Starter Decks



Reaching Destinations

One of the most attractive aspects of this program is its ability to build the playing community. In *The Lord of the Rings* TCG League, Members will learn to contribute to the growth of their gaming community by completing League Encounters. These Encounters will encourage League Members to expand their horizons beyond normal gameplay. League Members will complete 24 specific Encounters during a League month. The Encounters are explained in detail in the Encounters Glossary section of this Logbook.

When a League Member completes an encounter, you should:

- Verify the completion of that Encounter.
- Stamp the appropriate Encounter circle in the Encounter section of The Ring-bearer's Journal. Encounters can be completed more than once in a given League month, so make sure to stamp the circle that matches the correct week of your League month.
- Stamp the next empty square on the journey path located along the bottom edge of each page. This allows League Members to track their progress during a League month.

When a League Member has completed all of the required Encounters during a League month, you should do the following:

- Verify that the League Member has completed 24 Encounters.
- Reward the League Member with the appropriate card as outlined in the section titled Rewarding League Members.

Rewarding League Members

Gameplay cards and site cards should be given out at the following times:

- **Beginning of first League month** – All League Members should receive one Prancing Pony site card.
- **End of first League month** – All League Members who have completed the required Encounters for the Bree Destination should receive one Bill the Pony card.
- **Beginning of second League month** – All League Members who have completed the required Encounters for the Bree Destination should receive one Council Courtyard site card.
- **End of second League month** – All League Members who have completed the required Encounters for the Rivendell Destination should receive one Horn of Boromir card.
- **Beginning of third League month** – All League Members who have completed the required Encounters for the Rivendell Destination should receive one Balin's Tomb site card.
- **End of third League month** – All League Members who have completed the required Encounters for the Mines of Moria Destination should receive one Book of Mazarbul card.
- **Beginning of fourth League month** – All League Members who have completed the required Encounters for the Mines of Moria Destination should receive one Galadriel's Glade site card.
- **End of fourth League month** – All League Members who have completed the required Encounters for the Lothlórien Destination should receive one Phial of Galadriel card.

The Lord of the Rings TCG Encounters Glossary

Attendance – *You will move further along in your Journey with each week that you attend the League.*

Bring a New Player – *Bring a friend into the League and help them begin their Journey.*

Teach an Outsider to Play – *Find someone who plays Magic: The Gathering™, Pokémon™, Star Wars™ CCG, Young Jedi™ CCG, or some other card game and teach them The Lord of the Rings TCG.*

Mentor Another Player – *As you progress through your Journey, you will sharpen your deckbuilding skills. Pass on what you have learned to someone who is just starting out on their Journey. Help them build a deck and teach them how to use it.*

Trade a Card – *Trade a Lord of the Rings TCG card with another League Member.*

Play a Multiplayer Game – *Test your skills against two or more opponents! See The Lord of the Rings TCG rulebook for multiplayer rules.*

Play a Sealed Deck Game – *Learn this variation of The Lord of the Rings TCG and play it in your League store.*

Play Using Secrets of the Shire – *Play an entire game without speaking to your opponent. Use hand signals and facial gestures to communicate.*

Play a Game – *Within The Lord of the Rings TCG, there are many strategies and encounters to overcome. Play against an opponent and accomplish one of the following:*

- Win a game in 20 minutes or less.
- Put the entire fellowship into play (Gandalf, Frodo, Sam, Merry, Pippin, Boromir, Legolas, Aragorn, and Gimli).
- Kill Lurtz, The Witch-king, or Cave Troll of Moria.
- Win by killing your opponent's Ring-bearer in a two-player game.
- Win by becoming the last player remaining in a multiplayer game.
- Win by completing the adventure path.
- Corrupt an opponent's Ring-bearer.
- Win using only one shadow culture in your deck.

Win a Swap Match – *Play two games against the same opponent. Play the first game normally. Play the second game using your opponent's deck (he uses your deck). Win both games to win the swap match.*