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# Hidden Table Puts Gaming In The Forefront

Owner Philip Lataille created a board game destination that offers a place for gamers to gather.

By Laura Lieff

While spring is an exciting time of year that welcomes longer days and blooming foliage, Eagle County residents also know that mud season can mean limited recreation choices. But now there is a Downvalley option for people who love games to meet up and enjoy a wide selection of their favorites.

A community-based game shop located on Broadway in Eagle, Hidden Table Games was created by Philip Lataille—a longtime fan of games whose goal was to provide a venue and the materials needed to participate. The facility features a large play area in the back of the store with 40 seats and enough table space to host tournaments, events, and painting classes,

among other activities. There is also a small retail area and a snack bar.

“With over 150 games in stock at any given time, people can always find something here for a variety of ages,” he says. “We have the largest selection of games from Denver to Grand Junction and there are over 30,000 game titles we can order!”

Pokémon, Dungeons and Dragons, Battle Academy, Chess, Yu-Gi-Oh, and Open Boardgaming meetups and events can all be found on the Hidden Table calendar. Some of the calendar listings are events and tournaments, while others are drop-in options. Lataille also offers “Learn To Play” sessions, Tabletop Wargame events, and “Open Play” (\$5 per person) which gives access to the extensive Hidden Table Library.

## ALTERNATIVE DESTINATION

While signing up is not required for the Open Play area (drop-in guests are welcome), the events and painting classes do require registration as they have limited space and fill up quickly. Additionally, there is a membership option which will allow for unlimited Open Play. People can also bring their own games which, as Lataille points out, provides “a great opportunity to meet new people or try a new game.”

In addition to being a destination for people who enjoy games, Lataille says Hidden Table provides an alternative to spending time at a bar. “There is no alcohol at our location, so it is a dry environment for people to hang out, and many of our patrons are ex-bar goers who choose

to stimulate their creative and problem-solving brains rather than drink,” he explains. “We also have many ski instructors and other Vail employees who hang out when the sun goes down. Many come in wearing their ski pants!”

While Hidden Table is open for all ages, children under 10 must be chaperoned at all times. That being said, their target demographic is 16 and older, and there are no games available for children under eight years old. **MTN**

## CONTACT

228 Broadway Street, Eagle  
 hiddentablegames.com  
 970-904-0637