



2015 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE BEE WEEK GUIDE





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Competition Schedule

Tuesday, May 26

Preliminaries Test
 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. | Maryland Ballroom
 All spellers will participate in this multiple choice test.

Wednesday, May 27

Preliminaries: Round Two Live on ESPN3
 8:00 – 11:45 a.m. | Maryland Ballroom

- Spellers 1 through 142 spell onstage between 8:00 and 9:45 a.m.
- Spellers 143 through 285 spell onstage between 10:00 and 11:45 a.m.

Preliminaries: Round Three Live on ESPN3
 1:15 – 4:45 p.m. | Maryland Ballroom

- Spellers 1 through 142 spell onstage between 1:15 and 2:45 p.m.
- Spellers 143 through 285 spell onstage between 3:15 and 4:45 p.m.

Announcement of Semifinalists: Live on ESPN3
 Approximately 5:00 p.m. | Maryland Ballroom

Semifinals Test
 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. | Chesapeake G
 All Semifinalist spellers will participate in this multiple choice test.
 This event is not open to the public.

Thursday, May 28

Semifinals: Live on ESPN2
 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Maryland Ballroom

Championship Finals: Live on ESPN
 8:00 – 10:00 p.m. | Maryland Ballroom

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About Our Program

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational program. Local spelling bees take place in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Department of Defense Schools in Europe. It also is administered in cooperation with local spelling bee sponsors from seven other countries: the Bahamas, Canada, China, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan and South Korea. We are administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company in cooperation with local spelling bee sponsors.

Purpose

Our purpose is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

To better achieve this purpose, in 2013 the evaluation of vocabulary knowledge was formally incorporated as an element of the national finals. The change was well-received and has been incorporated into all levels of the Bee.

Local Spelling Bee Sponsors

Each year we grant a limited number of local spelling bee sponsorships to media organizations, universities, nonprofits and other community leaders. Most organizations sponsoring local spelling bees are not owned by The E.W. Scripps Company. In fact, only four local spelling bee programs are run by Scripps-owned television stations this year.

Local sponsors conduct community spelling bee programs in cooperation with teachers and administrators at public, private, parochial, charter, virtual and home schools. The champion of each sponsor's program qualifies for participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Schools

Every fall, thousands of schools enroll in our program. Throughout the fall and winter, schools conduct spelling bees at the classroom, grade and school level to choose their representatives for the next level of competition.

Students may further compete in district, county or regional spelling bees before earning the right to represent their communities at the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Students

More than 11 million students participated in this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee at one level or another. To prepare, students used study materials created by spelling bee staff and Merriam-Webster using our official dictionary: *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and its addenda section, copyright 2002.

All of the spellers here have advanced to the Scripps National Spelling Bee by winning spelling bees as outlined by their local spelling bee sponsors. In general terms, the program is open to students who are 15 years old or younger, have not passed beyond eighth grade and attend schools officially enrolled with our program for the current academic year. See Rule 1 on page 4 for full eligibility requirements.

History

This is the 88th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. The National Spelling Bee started in 1925 with nine contestants. Frank Neuhauser of Louisville, Kentucky, correctly spelled "gladiolus" to win the inaugural Bee.

The E.W. Scripps Company took ownership in 1941 and, after not holding the competition for three years during World War II, has managed the Bee continuously since 1946.

The Bee declared co-champions in 1950, 1957, 1962 and 2014. Of the 91 champions, 47 have been girls and 44 have been boys. See pages 16 and 17 for a complete list of champions and their winning words.

An American Institution

While the Scripps National Spelling Bee has been around for a long time, it's more than a contest for children. It is a classic element of Americana.

Since 1925, participating in a spelling bee has been part of the collective American experience — even immortalized by a Norman Rockwell lithograph. As millions have gone to the front of a classroom or taken the stage to spell a word, it has become an iconic symbol of education, progress, and the opportunity for future generations to be more enriched than the previous.

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Thank You



The Scripps National Spelling Bee is only possible through the support of our sponsors and supporters.

For the first time this year, Words With Friends joins us as a broadcast sponsor of the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Launched in 2009, Words With Friends is one of the world's most popular mobile word games of all time. Words With Friends encourages vocabulary expansion and word discovery through challenging players to create the highest-scoring words while playing against friends, family or random opponents. Millions of spellers, both competitive and not, have used Words With Friends as an exciting and motivating way to build their vocabulary while connecting with others through social word-play. The Bee thanks Words With Friends for its generous support.



We are also proud and grateful to announce that Microsoft joins us as a broadcast sponsor for the second year in a row. This means that the nation's largest and longest-running educational program is collaborating with the worldwide leader in software, services, devices and solutions. Microsoft remains deeply committed to supporting educators and educational programs.



Microsoft and Words With Friends join a growing number of companies that show their enthusiasm for education by supporting the Bee, including:



And our local sponsors are the lifeblood of the Bee. There are more than 270 organizations that administer local spelling bees. All of our local sponsors are listed in the Spellers and Sponsors section, which starts on page 19.



CONTEST RULES OF THE 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee

Rule 1: Eligibility

A speller qualifying for the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee (the Bee) must meet these requirements:

- (1) The speller must not previously have been declared champion of the Bee.
- (2) The speller must attend a school that is officially enrolled with the Bee.
- (3) The speller must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before February 1, 2015.
- (4) The speller must not have repeated any grade for the purpose of extending spelling bee eligibility. If the speller has repeated any grade, the speller must notify the Bee of the circumstances of grade repetition by March 31, 2015; and the Bee will, in its sole discretion, determine the speller's eligibility status on or before April 30, 2015.
- (5) The speller — or the speller's parent, legal guardian or school official acting on the speller's behalf — must not have declared to another entity an academic classification higher than eighth grade for any purpose including high school graduation equivalency or proficiency examinations and/or examinations such as the PSAT, SAT or ACT.
- (6) The speller must not have earned the legal equivalent of a high school diploma.
- (7) The speller must not have completed nor ever been enrolled in more than six high school-level courses or two college-level courses on or before April 30, 2015.
- (8) The speller must not bypass or circumvent normal school activity to study for spelling bees. The Bee defines normal school activity as adherence to at least four courses of study other than language arts, spelling, Latin, Greek, vocabulary and etymology for at least four hours per weekday for 34 of the 38 weeks between August 26, 2014, and May 17, 2015.
- (9) The speller must not have reached the age of 15 on or before August 31, 2014.

- (10) The speller must have been declared a champion of a final local spelling bee on or after February 1, 2015.
- (11) The speller must not have been disqualified at any level of a sponsor's spelling bee program between June 2014 and April 2015. Further, if the speller becomes disqualified at any level of a sponsor's spelling bee program before April 2015, the speller will be ineligible to compete in the Bee and may not seek advancement in the Bee through another sponsor and/or enrollment in another school.
- (12) The speller must not have any first-, second- or third-degree relatives (i.e., sibling, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, half-sibling or first cousin) who are current employees of The E.W. Scripps Company.
- (13) The speller, upon qualifying for the Bee, must submit a completed online Champion Profile form, a signed Certification of Eligibility Form, a signed Appearance Consent and Release Form, and a hard or electronic copy of a photo to the Bee. The speller will notify the Bee, at least 24 hours prior to the first day of competition, if any of the statements made on the Certification of Eligibility Form are no longer true or require updating. The speller's sponsor will provide access to the necessary forms.

The Bee may disqualify prior to or during competition any speller who is not in compliance with any of the above Eligibility Requirements; and it may — at any time between the conclusion of the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee and April 30, 2016 — require any speller who is found to have not been in compliance with any of the Eligibility Requirements to forfeit any prizes, rank, and other benefits accorded to the speller as a result of participation in the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Rule 2: Preliminaries Format

The Preliminaries is the first of three distinct segments of the competition: Preliminaries, Semifinals and Championship Finals.

The Preliminaries consists of a multiple choice test (Preliminaries Test) administered Tuesday, May 26 at 9:15 a.m. EDT, and two rounds of oral spelling onstage on Wednesday, May 27 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EDT. Spellers may earn up to 36 points during the Preliminaries: up to 30 points on the Preliminaries Test, three points for correctly spelling in Round Two and three points for correctly spelling in Round Three.

#spellfie



The Preliminaries Test has 26 multiple choice items divided in four sections, with spellers identifying their responses on Scantron test forms. A speller receives one point for each of the 12 items identified correctly in the Round One Spelling section, one point for each of the 12 items identified correctly in the Round One Vocabulary section, three points for a correct answer to the single item in the Round Two Vocabulary section, and three points for a correct answer to the single item in the Round Three Vocabulary section.

During the afternoon of Wednesday, May 27 the Bee will email Preliminaries Test score reports to parents and spellers.

Eliminations: There are no immediate eliminations for providing an incorrect answer in the Preliminaries Test. Upon incorrectly spelling a word in Round Two or Three, the speller is eliminated from the competition. Spellers eliminated during Round Two are tied for the same place. Spellers eliminated during Round Three are tied for the same place. Immediately after Round Three a "maximum of 50" standard is applied to remaining spellers' scores accrued during the Preliminaries. Spellers' scores are plotted on a chart. Beginning at 36 on the chart, spellers at each consecutive scoring level are added until a sum of no more than 50 spellers has been attained.

All remaining spellers are eliminated. All spellers eliminated after Round Three and before the start of the Semifinals are tied for the same place.

Rule 3: Semifinals Format

The Semifinals is the second of three distinct segments of the competition: Preliminaries, Semifinals and Championship Finals.

The Semifinals consists of a multiple choice test (Semifinals Test) administered Wednesday evening, May 27 and two rounds of oral spelling onstage on Thursday, May 28. Spellers may earn up to 36 points during the Semifinals: up to 30 points on the Semifinals Test, three points for correctly spelling in Round Five and three points for correctly spelling in Round Six. Spellers must report to Chesapeake Room G in the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center for the Semifinals Test on Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. EDT.

The Semifinals Test has 26 multiple choice items divided in four sections, with spellers identifying their responses on Scantron test forms. A speller receives one point for each of the 12 items identified correctly in the Round Four Spelling section, one point for each of the 12 items identified correctly in the Round Four Vocabulary section, three points for a correct answer to the single item in the Round Five Vocabulary section, and three points for a correct answer to the single item in the Round Six Vocabulary section.

During the morning of Thursday, May 28 the Bee will email Semifinals Test score reports to Semifinalist spellers and their parents.

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Eliminations: There are no immediate eliminations for providing an incorrect answer in the Semifinals Test. Upon incorrectly spelling a word in Round Five or Six, the speller is eliminated from the competition. Spellers eliminated during Round Five are tied for the same place. Spellers eliminated during Round Six are tied for the same place. Immediately after Round Six a “maximum of 12” standard is applied to remaining spellers’ scores accrued during the Preliminaries and Semifinals. Spellers’ scores are plotted on a chart. Beginning at 72 on the chart, spellers at each consecutive scoring level are added until a sum of no more than 12 spellers has been attained. All remaining spellers are eliminated unless, in the course of applying the maximum of 12 standard, it appears that fewer than nine spellers will qualify for the Championship Finals. In this circumstance, spellers at the next consecutive scoring level (or levels) may be named as Championship Finalists if, in sole determination of Bee officials, there is sufficient time and word list content to accommodate additional spellers in the Championship Finals. All spellers eliminated after Round Six and before the start of the Championship Finals are tied for the same place.

Rule 4: Championship Finals Format

The Championship Finals is the third of three distinct segments of the competition: Preliminaries, Semifinals and Championship Finals.

The Championship Finals consist of rounds of oral spelling beginning with Round Seven and continuing until a champion is declared (or co-champions are declared).

All spellers who have not been eliminated from the competition spell one word in each round. Upon incorrectly spelling a word, the speller is eliminated from the competition except as provided under “End-of-Bee Procedure” herein. All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place.

Championship Words and Provision for Declaration of Co-Champions: At the beginning of any round in which either two or three spellers remain, the pronouncer will move to the 25-word championship section of the word list. If a champion does not emerge in the course of administering these final 25 words, the remaining spellers will be declared co-champions. In the event that a round beginning with more than either two or three spellers ends with only one speller to begin the next and perhaps final round, the pronouncer will not move to the championship section at that point in the competition.

End-of-Bee Procedure: If all spellers in a round misspell, all remain in the competition and a new round begins with the spellers spelling in their original order. If only one

speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word round begins and the speller is given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list (anticipated winning word). If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated winning word in this one-word round, the speller is declared the champion. If the speller misspells the anticipated winning word in a one-word round, a new round begins with all the spellers who spelled correctly and incorrectly in the previous round: these spellers spell in their original order.

Rule 5: Official Dictionary and Source of Words

Webster’s Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster (*Webster’s Third*) is the final authority and sole source for the spelling of words; the primary source used to craft the pronunciations, definitions, and language origins for the Bee; and the only printed authority consulted by officials, as well as the sole source used during the Bee to verify the information in our prepared lists. If more than one spelling is listed for a word, any of these spellings will be accepted as correct if the following three criteria are met: (1) the pronunciations are identical, (2) the definitions are identical, and (3) the words are identified as being variants of each other. Spellings having temporal labels (such as *archaic*, *obsolete*), stylistic labels (such as *substand*, *nonstand*) or regional labels (such as *North*, *Midland*, *Irish*) which differ from main entry spellings not having these status labels will not be accepted as correct.

Rule 6: Time Constraints

During the Preliminaries and Semifinals Tests: The speller may make or change responses on the test form during the time that the test is being administered by the pronouncer, and for 10 minutes afterward.

During oral spelling rounds in the Preliminaries, Semifinals and Championship Finals: The speller’s time at the microphone has a limit of 2 minutes. Time begins when the pronouncer first pronounces the word. For the first 1 minute and 15 seconds, the speller will have the benefit of viewing a monitor displaying a green traffic light. After 1 minute and 15 seconds, the monitor will show a yellow traffic light and the time clock as it counts down to the 30-second mark. At the 30-second mark, the monitor will show a red traffic light and a countdown of the remaining 30 seconds. The judges and pronouncer will not communicate with the speller during the final 30 seconds. The judges will disqualify any speller who does not provide a complete spelling before the expiration of time (0 seconds). If the judges and pronouncer need to discuss a competition-related matter while a speller is contemplating a word, they may pause the time clock, and they will inform the speller when they pause and resume the time clock.

Schedule modifications: Bee officials may, in their sole discretion, announce schedule and/or location changes in response to unexpected circumstances.

Rule 7: Special Needs

The Bee strives to provide accommodation for spellers who have diagnosed medical conditions. All requests for accommodation of special needs should be directed in writing to the director of the Bee before May 1, 2015. The judges have discretionary power to amend spelling requirements on a case-by-case basis for spellers with diagnosed medical conditions.

Rule 8: Pronouncer’s Role

The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in *Webster’s Third*.

Homonyms: If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer indicates which word is to be spelled by defining the word.

Speller’s requests: In oral competition the pronouncer responds only to the speller’s requests for repetition of the word’s pronunciation, a definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin and alternate pronunciation(s). When presented with requests for alternate pronunciations, the pronouncer or associate pronouncer checks for alternate pronunciations in *Webster’s Third*. If the speller wishes to ask if the dictionary lists a specific root word as the root of the word to be spelled, the speller must specify a pronunciation of the root (not a spelling), its language and its definition. The pronouncer will grant all such requests as long as they are in accordance with time constraints outlined in Rule 6.

Pronouncer’s sense of helpfulness: The pronouncer may offer word information — without the speller having requested the information — if the pronouncer senses that the information is helpful and the information appears in the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee word list or *Webster’s Third*.

Rule 9: Judges’ Role

The judges listen carefully, determine whether or not words are spelled correctly and uphold the rules. The decisions of the judges are final.

Misunderstandings: The judges will not respond to the speller’s question(s) about the word and its pronunciation but, if the judges sense that the speller has misunderstood the word, the judges will direct the speller and pronouncer to interact until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the speller in understanding the word within the time constraints

outlined in Rule 6. It is sometimes impossible to detect a misunderstanding until a spelling error has been made, and the judges are not responsible for the speller’s misunderstanding.

Pronouncer Errors: The judges compare the pronouncer’s pronunciation with the diacritical markings in the word list. If the judges feel that the pronouncer’s pronunciation does not match the pronunciation specified in the diacritical markings, the judges will direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.

Disqualifications for reasons other than clear misspelling: The judges will disqualify a speller (1) who does not approach the microphone when it is the speller’s time to receive the word unless there are extenuating circumstances that, in the judges’ sole discretion, merit holding the speller’s word in reserve and offering it to the speller after all other spellers in the round have spelled and before the close of the round; (2) who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct; (3) who, in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered; or (4) who, in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds.

Speller activities that do not merit disqualification: The judges may not disqualify a speller (1) for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it, (2) for asking a question, or (3) for noting or failing to note the capitalization of a word, the presence of a diacritical mark, or the presence of a hyphen or other form of punctuation.

Rule 10: Speller’s Role

The speller makes an effort to face the judges and pronounce the word for the judges before spelling it and after spelling it. The speller while facing the judges makes an effort to utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, provide the language(s) of origin and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations. The speller may also ask root word questions that meet the specifications delineated in Rule 8.

Misunderstandings: The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless (1) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation; (2) the pronouncer provided incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, or language of origin; or (3) the speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word and the pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonyms.



Multiple Choice Test (Preliminaries) Tuesday morning, May 26

Round 1 Spelling 12 words
Round 1 Vocabulary 12 words
Rounds 2 and 3 Vocabulary 1 word per

1 point each
1 point each
3 points each

Provide incorrect response → Advance to Round Two

Earn up to 30 points for correct responses.

Round Two (Preliminaries) Wednesday morning, May 27 | ESPN3

Misspell → and out

Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

Round Three (Preliminaries) Wednesday afternoon, May 27 | ESPN3

Misspell → and out

Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

Semifinals Threshold Wednesday, May 27, approximately 5 p.m. | ESPN3

Do not meet threshold → Out

No more than 50 spellers will advance to the Semifinals. (See rules for details.)

Multiple Choice Test (Semifinals) Wednesday evening, May 27

Round 4 Spelling 12 words
Round 4 Vocabulary 12 words
Rounds 5 and 6 Vocabulary 1 word per

1 point each
1 point each
3 points each

Provide incorrect response → Advance to Round Five

Earn up to 30 points for correct responses.

Round Five (Semifinals) Thursday morning, May 28 | ESPN2

Misspell → and out

Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

Round Six (Semifinals) Thursday midday, May 28 | ESPN2

Misspell → and out

Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

Championship Finals Threshold Thursday, May 28, approximately 1 p.m. | ESPN2

Do not meet threshold → Out

It's anticipated that no more than 12 spellers will advance to the Championship Finals. (See rules for details.)

Rounds Seven and Higher (Championship Finals) Thursday evening, May 28 | ESPN

Misspell → Out, with two exceptions: ↓



Spell correctly →

CHAMPION

Competition Flow Chart

- If all spellers in a round misspell, all remain in the competition and a new round begins with the spellers spelling in their original order.

- If the speller misspells the anticipated winning word in a one-word round, a new round begins with all the spellers who spelled correctly and incorrectly in the previous round; these spellers spell in their original order.

20 Questions

1. Didn't she spell that word correctly? That's how my dictionary spells it.

She didn't spell the word the way it's spelled in the Bee's official dictionary, *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster (*Webster's Third*). Bee rules state that *Webster's Third* is the final authority for the spelling of words.

2. Where does Dr. Bailly get the words?

The individuals — Bee officials and special contributors — who collaborate to produce the word list find the words in the course of going about their lives, reading books and traveling. Then they confirm the words' presence in *Webster's Third*. Occasionally, we hear theories that the Bee strategically recycles words from previous lists or creates special themes for its word lists. Let's just say that we find these theories amusing.

3. Dr. Bailly mispronounced the word. What can be done?

What Dr. Bailly did was pronounce the word according to the diacritical markings in *Webster's Third*. Diacritical markings are symbols such as *ä* and *ñ* that you see in a dictionary. If he didn't pronounce it the way you expected it to be pronounced, it's because your pronunciation wasn't in the dictionary, and the pronouncer is bound by the rules to pronounce only what is listed in the dictionary. It's also important to note that the legion of Bee officials in the front of the ballroom closely listen to Dr. Bailly and immediately alert him to make an on-the-spot correction in the event of an error.

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4. Why does the Bee ask so many foreign words?

Most words in the English language are words that we borrowed from other languages. We borrowed them, used them and now call them our own.

5. What happens when a speller misspells onstage?

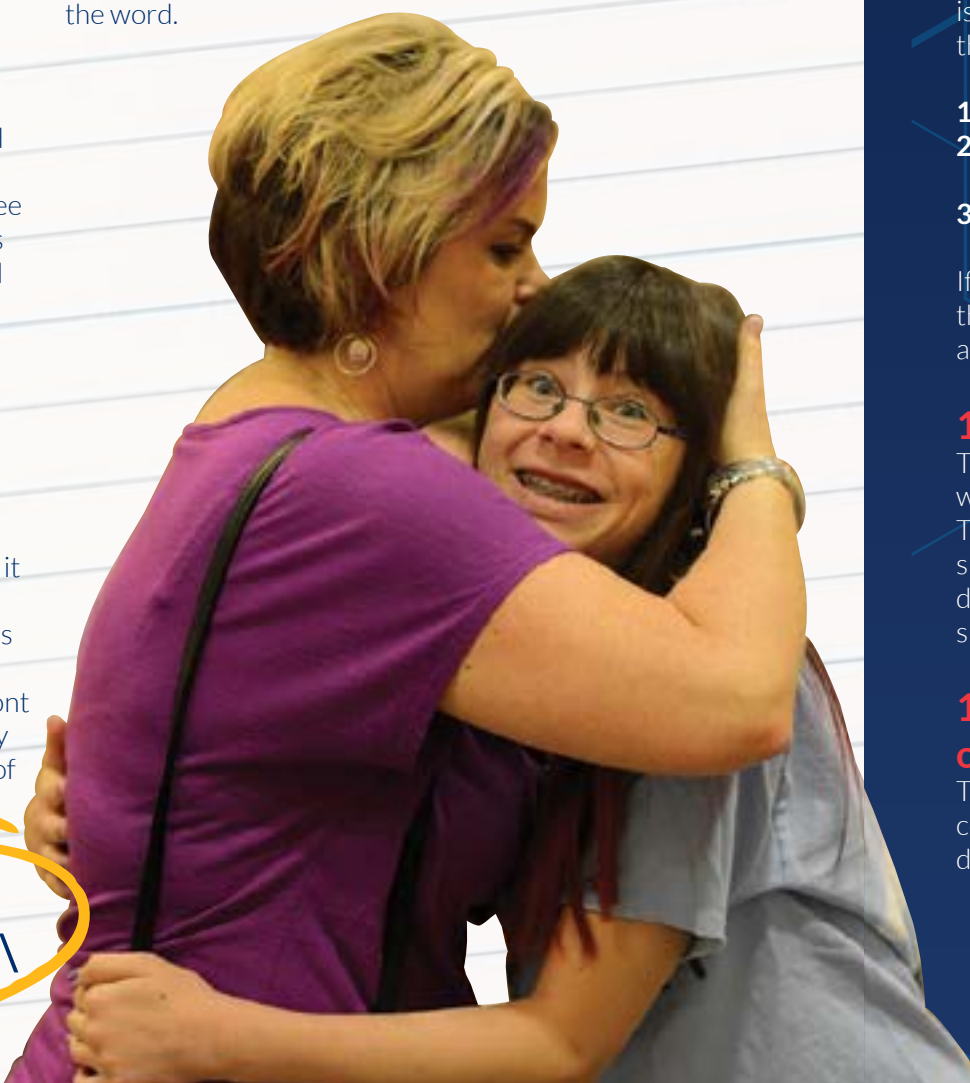
The judges' bell will ring, the pronouncer will offer the correct spelling, and the speller will exit in the direction of the sofas located stage right. One or both of the speller's parents will meet the speller at the sofas and lead the speller from the stage area.

6. What happens if every speller in a round misspells?

Every speller who misspelled in the round is reinstated to the competition. A new round begins, and they spell in their original order.

7. What happens if the speller correctly spells a homonym of the word?

The speller is out of luck unless Dr. Bailly failed to say that the word is a homonym or did not provide a definition of the word.



8. What are the time limits?

The Preliminaries and Semifinals tests will each take about 25 minutes to administer and will be followed by a 10-minute period during which spellers may review and finalize their responses. During all rounds of onstage spelling, spellers have a limit of two minutes.

9. Why does the pronouncer give a lot of information to some spellers and very little information to others?

Some words have multiple pronunciations, long definitions and complex origins. Other words have only one pronunciation, a brief definition and a simple origin. Here's the interesting part: There is no correlation between the volume of information and the spelling difficulty level.

Also, some spellers don't ask for information, while others ask multiple questions. The rules give Dr. Bailly discretion to offer information (as long as it's in the word list or *Webster's Third*) if he feels that it would be helpful to the speller, or if he has a sentence that he thinks is funny.

10. What if the speller doesn't understand the word?

The rules say it's the speller's responsibility to understand the word. If he doesn't understand the word, misspelling is likely. Bee officials are not aware of a problem unless the speller:

- 1) says "I don't understand,"
- 2) distinctly mispronounces the word while facing the judges, or
- 3) delivers an Oscar-worthy interpretation of confusion.

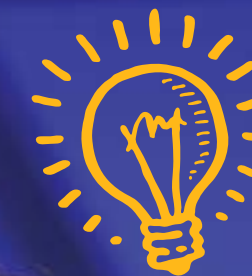
If the officials detect a lack of understanding, they will do all that they can within the limits of the rules to help the speller achieve an understanding of the word.

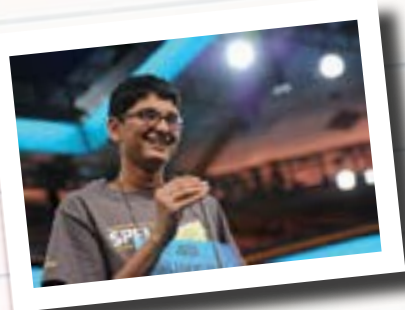
11. How many rounds will there be?

The Preliminaries and Semifinals are each three rounds with Rounds One and Four being multiple choice tests. The Championship Finals begins with Round Seven but we simply don't know how many rounds it will take to determine a Champion. It all depends on how many spellers misspell in each round.

12. What happens if the Bee runs out of words?

That's not a significant concern of Bee officials, as the list contains enough words for us to conduct the Bee through dawn on Friday morning.





13. Why at the end of the Bee do the screens count down from 25 after each speller spells? What happens if it reaches zero?

The screens count down from 25 to indicate that the pronouncer is offering words from the 25-word Championship Words section of the list. If a champion is not determined in the course of administering these final 25 words, Co-Champions will be declared as they were in 2014.

14. Why didn't the champion have to correct the spelling of the other speller onstage?

The rule about correcting the other speller's spelling went away in 1991. Now, in order to be declared Champion, you must be the only speller to spell correctly in a round; plus, in the next round — a one-word, one-person round — you must spell correctly.

15. When will the spellers ever see or use these words again?

Maybe never. And that's fine by us. Why? Because the spellers you see onstage are the crème de la crème — the best from a field of more than 11 million students. Of course we have to give these brilliant kids such difficult words! What really matters are the hundreds of important, useful words that they and the 11 million others learned and spelled prior to this competition — words they will definitely see and use again such as *philanthropy*, *imperative* and *amenable*. As for those incredibly difficult words, they're out there — in great works of literature, guide books, high school and college textbooks, and other great places. We're proud to put the spotlight on these rare and important gems of the English language.

16. How does the Bee decide who makes it to the Semifinals?

Let's suppose that 225 spellers remain in the Bee at the end of Round Three. Each of the 225 spellers has a Preliminaries score — points earned in the Preliminaries Test and Rounds Two and Three. The highest possible Preliminaries score a speller can earn is 36. Now let's suppose that the scoring distribution looks like this:



PRELIMINARIES SCORE	NUMBER OF SPELLERS ACHIEVING THIS SCORE	CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF SPELLERS AT OR ABOVE THIS SCORING LEVEL
36	2	2
35	3	5
34	8	13
33	12	25
32	19	44
31	18	62
30	23	85
29	17	102

The remainder of this sample scoring distribution table is not shown.

No more than 50 spellers will make it to the Semifinals. In this example, the Semifinals scoring threshold is 32. All spellers who achieved Preliminaries scores of at least 32 — in this sample case, it's 44 spellers — qualify for the Semifinals.

17. How many spellers usually qualify for the Semifinals?

Looking over the past five Bees, 46 spellers qualified for the Semifinals in 2014. In 2013, it was 42; 2012: 50; 2011: 41; and 2010: 48.

18. How does the Bee decide who makes it to the Championship Finals?

This formula is similar to the one used for the Semifinals. Let's suppose that 28 spellers remain in the Bee at the end of Round Six. Each of the 28 spellers has a Preliminaries score — points earned in the Preliminaries Test and Rounds Two and Three; also, a Semifinals score — points earned in the Semifinals Test and Rounds Five and Six. Immediately after Round Six, a speller's Preliminaries score and Semifinals score are added together. The highest possible cumulative Preliminaries and Semifinals score a speller can earn is 72. Now let's suppose that the scoring distribution for the 28 spellers looks like this:

CUMULATIVE PRELIMINARIES AND SEMIFINALS SCORE	NUMBER OF SPELLERS ACHIEVING THIS SCORE	CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF SPELLERS AT OR ABOVE THIS SCORING LEVEL
72	0	0
71	1	1
70	1	2
69	2	4
68	4	8
67	2	10
66	1	11
65	0	11
64	2	13
63	1	14
62	5	19

The remainder of this sample scoring distribution table is not shown.

It is anticipated that no more than 12 spellers will make it to the Championship Finals. In this example, the Championship Finals scoring threshold is 65. All spellers who achieved a cumulative Preliminaries and Semifinals score of at least 65 — in this sample case, it's 11 spellers — qualify for the Championship Finals.

19. How many spellers usually qualify for the Championship Finals?

Looking back over the past five Bees, 12 spellers qualified in 2014. In 2013, it was 11; 2012: 9; 2011: 13; and 2010: 8.

20. How does the Bee rank spellers as they exit the competition?

Here is a summary:

TIMING OF COMPETITION EXIT	RANK
Misspell in Round Two	number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Two + 1
Misspell in Round Three	number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Three + 1
In Bee at the end of Round Three but do not qualify for the Semifinals	number of Semifinalists + 1
Misspell in Round Five	number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Five + 1
Misspell in Round Six	number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Six + 1
In Bee at the end of Round Six but do not qualify for the Championship Finals	number of Championship Finalists + 1
Misspell and are eliminated during the Championship Finals	number of spellers spelling in the round occurring immediately after the round in which speller was eliminated + 1

Meet the Spellebrities



Spellers by the Numbers

AGE	TOTAL	PERCENT	GRADE	TOTAL	PERCENT	SCHOOL TYPE	TOTAL	PERCENT
9	3	1.1%	3	1	0.3%	Public	191	67%
10	11	3.9%	4	5	1.8%	Private	50	17.5%
11	35	12.3%	5	24	8.4%	Parochial	18	6.3%
12	70	24.6%	6	58	20.3%	Home	13	4.6%
13	88	31%	7	78	27.4%	Charter	12	4.2%
14	75	26%	8	119	41.8%	Virtual	1	0.4%
15	3	1.1%						

146 Girls: 51.23% 139 Boys: 48.77% Number of Spellers: 285

Studying Siblings



Many spellers list their brothers and sisters as study buddies. Of this year's spellers, 44 are only children and 137 spellers have one sibling. The remaining 103 spellers have 210 siblings combined. Seventeen spellers – spellers 3, 4, 7, 14, 34, 51, 85, 137, 141, 174, 182, 195, 197, 217, 233, 252, and 268 – have 5 siblings or more. **Speller 34, Jeffery Thompson**, is the youngest of 10 children, and **speller 7, Jackson Parker**, has nine siblings as well.



Eight spellers have a fraternal twin – spellers 19, 86, 124, 179, 192, 247, 257 and 268 – and **Speller 115, Spencer Pogue**, is a triplet.



Spelling In Their Blood



Thirty-six spellers have relatives who have participated in a combined 81 Scripps National Spelling Bees. Robert Rosenberg, the grandfather of speller 13, Cooper Komatsu, competed in 1955, and speller 197, Marie Wallie's mother, Carolyn Cross Wallie, placed third in 1971. Speller 90, Vanya Shivashankar's sister, Kavya, won in 2009; **speller 159, Srinath Mahankali's** brother, Arvind, won in 2013; and speller 153, Jairam Hathwar's brother, Sriram, won in 2014.

Spell-Peaters

Coming into this year, 57 spellers have collectively competed in 136 Scripps National Spelling Bees.

FIVE-YEAR REPEATERS (1)

90 Vanya Shivashankar

FOUR-YEAR REPEATERS (3)

140 Gokul Venkatachalam
164 Dylan O'Connor
284 Katharine Wang

THREE-YEAR REPEATERS (13)

56 Zander Patent
85 Zander Reed
122 Nathaniel Britton
154 Gavin Buehler
158 Sai Vishudhi Chandrasekhar
185 Manu Nair
191 Alotus Wei
200 Cole Shafer-Ray
214 Alexandra Harper
221 Kalika Bridwell
237 Shobha Dasari
255 Samuel Pereles
275 Lillian Bischof

TWO-YEAR REPEATERS (40)

2 Bryce Tasso
9 Eesha Sohail
12 Jillian Fusi
22 Kaylee Kim
44 Charles Li
76 Cy Orentlicher
92 Paul Keaton
93 Tara Singh
105 Selomi Dayaprema
107 Tamyia Matthews
109 Selena Antosh
110 Gia Lauren Bautista
112 Christy Jestin
114 Mitchell Robson

115 Spencer Pogue
130 Christine Farnberg
132 Dev Jaiswal
135 Joel Miles
144 Arushi Kalpande
150 Anish Kumar
151 Lydia Loverin
155 Maggy Lambo
165 Harshita Shet
168 Abigail Pittman
169 Bettie Closs
170 Ashrita Vadlapatla
175 Emily Garcia
180 Madeline Rickert
196 Phoebe Jackson
198 Melina Gabele

199 Annabelle Day
218 Razeen Basunia
229 Bates Bennett
244 Kasey Torres
246 Muriel Cotman
257 Jessie Ditton
261 Ankita Vadiala
264 Tejas Muthusamy
272 Varun Kukkillaya
280 Anika Malayappan

Get to Know the Spellers

Favorite Foods

1. Pizza
2. Pasta
3. Chicken
4. Sushi
5. Steak

Favorite Sports

1. Soccer
2. Basketball
3. Tennis
4. Swimming
5. Volleyball

Favorite Sports Figures

1. Gabby Douglas
2. Lionel Messi
3. Michael Jordan
3. Serena Williams
5. Roger Federer

Favorite Musicians/Bands

1. Taylor Swift
2. Imagine Dragons
3. Maroon 5
4. Fall Out Boy
5. Bruno Mars

Favorite Songs

1. "Centuries" – Fall Out Boy
2. "Uptown Funk" – Mark Ronson ft. Bruno Mars
3. "Let It Go" – Idina Menzel
4. "Happy" – Pharrell Williams

Favorite TV Shows

1. *Doctor Who*
2. *The Big Bang Theory*
3. *Once Upon a Time*
4. *Shark Tank*
5. *SpongeBob SquarePants*

Favorite Novels

1. J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series
2. Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games trilogy
3. Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson & the Olympians series
4. J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings trilogy
5. Veronica Roth's Divergent series

Favorite Movies

1. The Hunger Games series
2. The Harry Potter series
3. *Big Hero 6*
4. The Star Wars series

Dream Colleges

1. Harvard
2. Stanford
3. MIT
4. Yale

Favorite Historical Figures

1. Abraham Lincoln
2. Mahatma Gandhi
3. Albert Einstein
4. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
5. George Washington

Favorite Subjects

1. Math
2. English and Language Arts
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. History

Languages Spoken

English is not the first language of 21 spellers. Overall, 117 spellers speak or study 37 languages other than English, including Swedish, Filipino, Mandarin, Italian, German, French, Hindi, Korean, Malayalam, Marathi, Czech, Russian, Laotian, Turkish, Urdu, Hebrew and Vietnamese.

This year's competitors are all great spellers, but that's not all they do! Here's a brief look into the interests and accomplishments of the students competing to become the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion.



Speller 133 Junah Jong

Junah appeared in over 300 performances as a member of the original revival cast of *Annie* on Broadway in New York City.



Speller 143 Daniel Taylor

Daniel is a dedicated snowboarder who has competed in the USASA Snowboard National Championships for the past two years.



Speller 273 Andrew Gould

Andrew can give you directions from any one U.S. city to another via interstates, a skill that he cultivated through his interest in civil engineering.



Speller 105 Selomi Dayaprema

Selomi participated in the European Forces Swimming League Championships in Eindhoven, Netherlands in 2011, 2012, and 2013.



Speller 270 Ayush Noori

Ayush is currently in the process of establishing his own 501(c)(3) charity, Maitri Miracles, to support underprivileged children.



Speller 262 Eliza Willett

Eliza hopes to earn her certification as a pet therapy leader soon, so she can take her trained therapy pig, Ruthie, to nursing homes and schools.



Speller 123 Neha Middela

In just one month, Neha wrote 50,000 words as a part of the National Novel Writing Month challenge.



Speller 113 Lela Festa

Lela loves to crochet, and she even started her own Etsy shop as a way to sell her creations and learn entrepreneurial skills.



Speller 61 Brennon Cavanagh

Brennon teaches the importance of wetlands conservation as a member of the Junior Stewards program led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Champions and Their Winning Words

1925: gladiolus Frank Neuhauser <i>Louisville Courier-Journal</i> Louisville, Kentucky	1936: interning Jean Trowbridge <i>Des Moines Register & Tribune</i> Des Moines, Iowa	1950: meticulousity Diana Reynard <i>Cleveland Press</i> Cleveland, Ohio and Colquitt Dean <i>Atlanta Journal</i> Atlanta, Georgia	1959: catamaran Joel Montgomery <i>Rocky Mountain News</i> Denver, Colorado
1926: cerise Pauline Bell <i>Louisville Courier-Journal</i> Louisville, Kentucky	1937: promiscuous Waneeta Beckley <i>Louisville Courier-Journal</i> Louisville, Kentucky	1951: insouciant Irving Belz <i>Memphis Press Scimitar</i> Memphis, Tennessee	1960: eudaemonic Henry Feldman <i>The Knoxville News Sentinel</i> Knoxville, Tennessee
1927: luxuriance Dean Lucas <i>Akron Beacon Journal</i> Akron, Ohio	1938: sanitarium Marian Richardson <i>Louisville Times</i> Louisville, Kentucky	1952: vignette Doris Ann Hall <i>Winston-Salem Journal</i> Winston-Salem, North Carolina	1961: smaragdine John Capehart <i>Tulsa Tribune</i> Tulsa, Oklahoma
1928: albumen Betty Robinson <i>South Bend News-Tribune</i> South Bend, Indiana	1939: canonical Elizabeth Ann Rice <i>Worcester Telegram & Gazette</i> Worcester, Massachusetts	1953: soubrette Elizabeth Hess <i>Arizona Republic</i> Phoenix, Arizona	1962: esquamulose Nettie Crawford <i>El Paso Herald-Post</i> El Paso, Texas and Michael Day <i>St. Louis Globe-Democrat</i> St. Louis, Missouri
1929: asceticism Virginia Hogan <i>The Omaha World-Herald</i> Omaha, Nebraska	1940: therapy Laurel Kuykendall <i>The Knoxville News Sentinel</i> Knoxville, Tennessee	1954: transept William Cashore <i>Norristown Times Herald</i> Norristown, Pennsylvania	1963: equipage Glen Van Slyke III <i>The Knoxville News Sentinel</i> Knoxville, Tennessee
1930: fracas Helen Jensen <i>Des Moines Register & Tribune</i> Des Moines, Iowa	1941: initials Louis Edward Sissman <i>Detroit News</i> Detroit, Michigan	1955: crustaceology Sandra Sloss <i>St. Louis Globe-Democrat</i> St. Louis, Missouri	1964: sycophant William Kerek <i>Akron Beacon Journal</i> Akron, Ohio
1931: foulard Ward Randall <i>White Hall Register-Republican</i> White Hall, Illinois	1942: sacrilegious Richard Earnhart <i>El Paso Herald-Post</i> El Paso, Texas	1956: condominium Melody Sachko <i>The Pittsburgh Press</i> Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	1965: eczema Michael Kerpan, Jr. <i>Tulsa Tribune</i> Tulsa, Oklahoma
1932: knack Dorothy Greenwalk <i>Des Moines Register & Tribune</i> Des Moines, Iowa	1946: semaphore John McKinney <i>Des Moines Register & Tribune</i> Des Moines, Iowa	1957: schappe Sandra Owen <i>Canton Repository</i> Canton, Ohio and Dana Bennett <i>Rocky Mountain News</i> Denver, Colorado	1966: ratoon Robert A. Wake <i>Houston Chronicle</i> Houston, Texas
1933: torsion Alma Roach <i>Akron Beacon Journal</i> Akron, Ohio	1947: chlorophyll Mattie Lou Pollard <i>Atlanta Journal</i> Atlanta, Georgia	1958: syllepsis Jolitta Schlehuder <i>Topeka Daily Capital</i> Topeka, Kansas	1967: Chihuahua Jennifer Reinke <i>The Omaha World-Herald</i> Omaha, Nebraska
1934: deteriorating Sarah Wilson <i>Portland Evening Press</i> Portland, Maine	1948: psychiatry Jean Chappellear <i>Akron Beacon Journal</i> Akron, Ohio	1968: abalone Robert L. Walters <i>The Topeka Daily Capital</i> Topeka, Kansas	1969: interlocutory Susan Yoachum <i>Dallas Morning News</i> Dallas, Texas
1935: intelligible Clara Mohler <i>Akron Beacon Journal</i> Akron, Ohio	1949: dulcimer Kim Calvin <i>Canton Repository</i> Canton, Ohio		

1970: croissant Libby Childress <i>Winston-Salem Journal & Sentinel</i> Winston-Salem, North Carolina	1981: sarcophagus Paige Pipkin <i>El Paso Herald-Post</i> El Paso, Texas	1993: kamikaze Geoff Hooper <i>The Commercial Appeal</i> Memphis, Tennessee	2005: appoggiatura Anurag Kashyap <i>San Diego Union-Tribune</i> San Diego, California
1971: shalloon Jonathan Knisely <i>Philadelphia Bulletin</i> Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1982: psoriasis Molly Dieveney <i>Rocky Mountain News</i> Denver, Colorado	1994: antediluvian Ned G. Andrews <i>The Knoxville News Sentinel</i> Knoxville, Tennessee	2006: Ursprache Katharine Close <i>Asbury Park Press/</i> <i>Home News Tribune</i> Asbury Park, New Jersey
1972: macerate Robin Kral <i>Lubbock Avalanche-Journal</i> Lubbock, Texas	1983: Purim Blake Giddens <i>El Paso Herald-Post</i> El Paso, Texas	1995: xanthosis Justin Tyler Carroll <i>The Commercial Appeal</i> Memphis, Tennessee	2007: serrefine Evan M. O'Dorney <i>Contra Costa Times</i> Walnut Creek, California
1973: vouchsafe Barrie Trinkle <i>Fort Worth Press</i> Fort Worth, Texas	1984: luge Daniel Greenblatt <i>Loudoun Times-Mirror</i> Leesburg, Virginia	1996: vivisepture Wendy Guey <i>The Palm Beach Post</i> West Palm Beach, Florida	2008: guerdon Sameer Mishra <i>Journal and Courier</i> Lafayette, Indiana
1974: hydrophyte Julie Anne Junkin <i>Birmingham Post-Herald</i> Birmingham, Alabama	1985: milieu Balu Natarajan <i>Chicago Tribune</i> Chicago, Illinois	1997: euonym Rebecca Sealton <i>Daily News</i> New York, New York	2009: Laodicean Kavya Shivashankar <i>The Olathe News</i> Olathe, Kansas
1975: incisor Hugh Tosteson <i>San Juan Star</i> San Juan, Puerto Rico	1986: odontalgia Jon Pennington <i>The Patriot News</i> Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	1998: chiaroscuroist Jody-Anne Maxwell Phillips & Phillips Stationery Suppliers Kingston, Jamaica	2010: stromuhr Anamika Veeramani <i>The Plain Dealer</i> Cleveland, Ohio
1976: narcolepsy Tim Kneale <i>Syracuse Herald</i> <i>Journal-American</i> Syracuse, New York	1987: staphylococci Stephanie Petit <i>The Pittsburgh Press</i> Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	1999: logorrhea Nupur Lala <i>The Tampa Tribune</i> Tampa, Florida	2011: cymotrichous Sukanya Roy <i>Times Leader</i> Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
1977: cambist John Paola <i>The Pittsburgh Press</i> Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	1988: elegiacal Rageshree Ramachandran <i>The Sacramento Bee</i> Sacramento, California	2000: demarche George Abraham Thampy <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> St. Louis, Missouri	2012: guetapens Snigdha Nandipati <i>U-T San Diego</i> San Diego, California
1978: deification Peg McCarthy <i>The Topeka Capital-Journal</i> Topeka, Kansas	1989: spoliator Scott Isaacs <i>Rocky Mountain News</i> Denver, Colorado	2001: succedaneum Sean Conley <i>Aitkin Independent Age</i> Aitkin, Minnesota	2013: knaidel Arvind Mahankali <i>Daily News</i> New York, New York
1979: maculature Katie Kerwin <i>Rocky Mountain News</i> Denver, Colorado	1990: fibranne Amy Marie Dimak <i>The Seattle Times</i> Seattle, Washington	2002: prospicience Pratyush Buddiga <i>Rocky Mountain News</i> Denver, Colorado	2014: stichomythia Sriram Hathwar Corning Rotary Club Corning, New York and feuilleton Ansun Sujoe Texas Christian University Fort Worth, Texas
1980: elucubrate Jacques Bailly <i>Rocky Mountain News</i> Denver, Colorado	1991: antipyretic Joanne Lagatta <i>The Wisconsin State Journal</i> Madison, Wisconsin	2003: pocourante Sai R. Gunturi <i>The Dallas Morning News</i> Dallas, Texas	
1992: lyceum Amanda Goad <i>The Richmond News Leader</i> Richmond, Virginia	2004: autochthonous David Scott Pilarski Tidmarsh <i>South Bend Tribune</i> South Bend, Indiana		

PRIZES

FOR THE CHAMPION

From Scripps: a \$30,000 cash prize and the Scripps National Spelling Bee engraved trophy

From Merriam-Webster: a \$2,500 U.S. savings bond and a complete reference library

From Encyclopaedia Britannica: \$1,100 of reference works including the Britannica Global Edition, 1768 Encyclopaedia Britannica Replica Set Deluxe Edition and three-year membership to Britannica Online Premium

From Words With Friends: a \$5,000 cash prize

FOR THE CHAMPION'S SCHOOL AND SPONSOR

From Scripps: Scripps National Spelling Bee engraved plaques

FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS

A medal from the Scripps National Spelling Bee

Misspell in Round 7 through to 7th Place	\$1,500
6th Place	\$2,000
5th Place	\$2,500
4th Place	\$3,000
3rd Place	\$7,500
2nd Place	\$12,500

FOR THE SEMIFINALISTS

A medal from the Scripps National Spelling Bee

\$500 Visa gift card

FOR ALL SPELLERS

From Merriam-Webster: *Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged*, including a CD-ROM

From Mr. Jay Sugarman: The Samuel Louis Sugarman Award — a 2015 United States Mint Proof Set presented by Mr. Sugarman in honor of his father

From Encyclopaedia Britannica: a one-year membership to Britannica Online Premium

Spellers who are eliminated from the competition in the same round are assigned the same rank (place). If Bee officials declare Co-Champions, each Co-Champion will receive a \$30,000 first place cash prize.

Spellers and Sponsors

ALABAMA

1 Victor M. Sutton of Auburn is a 12-year-old 7th grader at J.F. Drake Middle School. His sponsor is Adventure Travel, Birmingham.



ALASKA

2 Bryce Tasso of Eagle River is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Grace Christian School. His sponsor is the *Alaska Dispatch News*, Anchorage.



3 Bethany Therese Doudna of Fairbanks is a home-schooled 14-year-old 8th grader with Interior Distance Education of Alaska. Her sponsor is the *Daily News-Miner*, Fairbanks.



AMERICAN SAMOA

4 Debrinna-Meggie Saleutogi Alaia Su'a of Pago Pago is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Manulele Tausala Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Samoa News*, Pago Pago.



ARIZONA

5 Marcus E. Behling of Chandler is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Arizona College Prep. His sponsor is the Arizona Educational Foundation, Scottsdale.



6 Kelvin G. Winney of Chinle is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Canyon de Chelly Elementary School. His sponsor is the Navajo Times Publishing Company, Window Rock.



ARKANSAS

7 Jackson C. Parker of Paragould is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Paragould Junior High School. His sponsor is the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, Little Rock.



THE BAHAMAS

8 Charles Hamilton Jr. of Nassau is a 12-year-old 8th grader at St. Anne's School. His sponsor is *The Nassau Guardian*.



CALIFORNIA

9 Eesha R. Sohail of Bakersfield is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Norris Middle School. Her sponsor is KERO 23 ABC, Bakersfield.



10 Labiba Sardar of Ventura is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Balboa Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Ventura County Star*, Camarillo.



11 Nicholas M. Lee of Rancho Cucamonga is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Caryn Elementary School. His sponsor is Quest Literacy Consortium, Inc., Diamond Bar.



12 Jillian Grace Fusi of Imperial is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Calvary Chapel Christian School. Her sponsor is the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro.



13 Cooper Komatsu of Los Angeles is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Culver City Middle School. His sponsor is the Los Angeles Spelling Bee Collaborative.



14 Emily Grace Alldrin of Palo Cedro is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader with The Learning Connection. Her sponsor is the *Record Searchlight*, Redding.



15 Jenna-May Ingall of Cathedral City is a 14-year-old 8th grader at James Workman Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Press-Enterprise*, Riverside.



16 Snehaa Ganesh Kumar of Folsom is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Folsom Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Sacramento Bee*.



18 Colleen Ung of San Bernardino is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Cesar E. Chavez Middle School. Her sponsor is the San Bernardino Spelling Bee Collaborative.



19 Oona Mary Nikko Flood of Solana Beach is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Earl Warren Middle School. Her sponsor is *U-T San Diego*.



20 Meera Suresh of Santa Clara is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Warren E. Hyde Middle School. Her sponsor is KPIX-TV & KCBS Radio AM & FM, San Francisco.



21 Sarika Rau of Irvine is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Sierra Vista Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Orange County Register*, Santa Ana.



22 Kaylee Erin Kim of Fort Irwin is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Fort Irwin Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Daily Press*, Victorville.



23 Sameera Naseem Hussain of Porterville is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Westfield Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register*.



24 Timothy Yue of Danville is a 13-year-old 7th grader at The Dorris-Eaton School. His sponsor is the *Contra Costa Times*, Walnut Creek.



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CANADA
25 Rehana Jasmine Lalani of Mississauga is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Allan A. Martin Senior Public School. Her sponsor is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, Burlington, Ontario.



26 Thomas Duck of Halifax is a 12-year-old 7th grader at St. Agnes Junior High School. His sponsor is *The Chronicle Herald*, Halifax, Nova Scotia.



27 Greta Warner of St. John's is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Bishop Feild Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Telegram*, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.



CHINA
17 Sophia Han of Tianjin is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Tianjin Nankai Middle School. Her sponsor is Tianjin Nankai Middle School.



COLORADO
28 Cameron Keith of Longmont is a 9-year-old 3rd grader at Friends School. His sponsor is Barnes & Noble, Boulder.



29 Sylvie Lamontagne of Lakewood is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Creighton Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Denver Post*.



CONNECTICUT
280 Anika R. Malayappan of Danbury is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Broadview Middle School. Her sponsor is Broadview Middle School, Danbury.



281 Aahil T. Nishad of Danbury is a 9-year-old 4th grader at Stadley Rough Elementary School. His sponsor is Stadley Rough Elementary School, Danbury.



282 Arjun Jagjivan of West Hartford is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Sedgwick Middle School. His sponsor is Sedgwick Middle School, West Hartford.



DELAWARE
30 Keo Pangan of Wilmington is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. His sponsor is the Delaware Spelling Bee Collaborative, Wilmington.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
31 Julia Weinrod of Washington is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Horace Mann Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Washington Informer*.



EUROPE
32 Ryan Joseph Rayos of Naples, Italy, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Naples Elementary School. His sponsor is the European PTA, Defense and State Department Schools.



FLORIDA
33 Bryce Harrell of Lakeland is a 13-year-old 7th grader at South McKeel Academy. His sponsor is the Polk County School District Collaborative, Bartow.



34 Jeffery D. Thompson of Fort Myers is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Fort Myers Middle Academy. His sponsor is *The Daily News*, Bonita Springs.



35 Vaishnavi Suren of Jacksonville is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Julia Landon College Preparatory. Her sponsor is *The Florida Times-Union*, Jacksonville.



36 Trishala Kumar of Miramar is a 13-year-old 8th grader at American Heritage School. Her sponsor is *The Miami Herald*.



37 Jack Benveniste-Plitt of Surfside is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Rabbi Alexander S. Gross Hebrew Academy. His sponsor is *The Miami Herald*.



38 Jonathon Schafer of Estero is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Royal Palm Academy. His sponsor is the *Naples Daily News*.



39 Siyona Mishra of Orlando is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Orlando Science Middle High School. Her sponsor is *Orlando Sentinel Communications*.



40 Rafael Caballero of Riverview is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Williams Middle Magnet School. His sponsor is the Tampa Bay Spelling Bee Collaborative, St. Petersburg.



41 Jeremy Ortmann of Hobe Sound is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Murray Middle School. His sponsor is Treasure Coast Newspapers, Stuart.



42 Farzan Shiju of Tallahassee is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Conley Elementary School. His sponsor is the *Tallahassee Democrat*.



43 Tyler Berndt of Jupiter is a 12-year-old 6th grader at All Saints Catholic School. His sponsor is the Kiwanis Club of West Palm Beach.



GEORGIA
44 Charles Sirui Li of Martinez is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Stallings Island Middle School. His sponsor is *The Augusta Chronicle*.



45 Monisha P. Mahadevan of Atlanta is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Woodward Academy. Her sponsor is the Georgia Association of Educators, Tucker.



GHANA
46 Vishal Mukesh Thakwani of Accra is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Delhi Public School. His sponsor is the Young Educators Foundation, Accra.



GUAM
47 Justine Calayo of Saipan is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Grace Christian Academy. Her sponsor is the *Pacific Daily News*, Hagåtña.



HAWAII
48 Nick Sarji of Kailua is a 12-year-old 6th grader at 'Aikahi Elementary School. His sponsor is Kama'aina Kids, Kailua.



IDAHO
49 Kendall L. Foster of Post Falls is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Canfield Middle School. His sponsor is the *Coeur d'Alene Press*.



50 McKenna Noland of Clarkston, Washington, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Asotin Junior Senior High School. Her sponsor is the *Lewiston Tribune*.



51 Jaren Rose of Twin Falls is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Vera C. O'Leary Junior High School. His sponsor is the *Times-News*, Twin Falls.



ILLINOIS
52 Summit Kumar of Plainfield is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Troy Middle School. His sponsor is Commonwealth Edison, Chicago.



53 Bernadette A. Miao of Western Springs is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Saint John of the Cross Parish School. Her sponsor is Commonwealth Edison, Chicago.



54 Christopher Chang of Oak Brook is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Butler Junior High School. His sponsor is Commonwealth Edison, Chicago.



55 Gerardo Amaro of Chicago is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Beaubien Elementary School. His sponsor is Chicago Public Schools.



56 Zander G. Patent of Chicago is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Latin School of Chicago. His sponsor is the Chicago Spelling Bee Collaborative.



57 Mareike Western of Johnsburg is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Johnsburg Junior High School. Her sponsor is the *Northwest Herald*, Crystal Lake.



58 Lauryn Pugh of Decatur is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Holy Family Catholic School. Her sponsor is the Macon-Piatt Regional Office of Education, Decatur.



59 Nolan Bunger of Cortland is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Huntley Middle School. His sponsor is the *Daily Chronicle*, DeKalb.



60 Rebekah G. Zeigler of Polo is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Centennial Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Telegraph*, Dixon.



61 Brennon Lee Cavanagh of Savanna is a 12-year-old 6th grader at West Carroll Middle School. His sponsor is the Carroll/JoDavies/Stephenson Regional Office of Education, Freeport.



62 Aniket Nuthalapati of Buffalo Grove is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Aptakisic Junior High School. His sponsor is the Lake County Regional Office of Education, Grayslake.



63 Eric Rohit Errampalli of Bourbonnais is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center. His sponsor is *The Daily Journal*, Kankakee.



64 Katrina Marie La Madrid of Belvidere is a 12-year-old 6th grader at St. Bridget School. Her sponsor is the Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education, Loves Park.



65 Uma Kasichainula of Bettendorf, Iowa, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Hopewell Elementary School. Her sponsors are *The Dispatch* and *The Rock Island Argus*, Moline.



66 Aditya Nadkarni of Aurora is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Bednarcik Junior High School. His sponsor is the Grundy/Kendall County Regional Office of Education, Morris.



67 Benjamin L. Hollis of Hamilton is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Hamilton Elementary School. His sponsor is the *Peoria Journal Star*.



68 Tejas Shyamsundar of Hoffman Estates is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary School. His sponsor is the *Kane County Chronicle*, Saint Charles.



69 Dylan Hembrough of Sherman is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Williamsville Middle School. His sponsor is *The State Journal-Register*, Springfield.



78 Mohamed Bouftas of West Lafayette is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Battle Ground Middle School. His sponsor is the *Journal and Courier*, Lafayette.



86 Bryan D. Keck of Dubuque is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School. His sponsor is the *Telegraph Herald*, Dubuque.



70 Meagan Moore of Rock Falls is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Mary's School. Her sponsor is *The Daily Gazette*, Sterling.



79 Jenna M. King of Upland is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Eastbrook Junior High School. Her sponsor is Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion.



JAMAICA
87 Sara-Beth Alina McPherson of Kingston is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Holy Childhood High School. Her sponsor is the *Jamaica Gleaner*, Kingston.



INDIANA
71 Nicholas James Bitar of Anderson is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Liberty Christian School. His sponsor is *The Herald Bulletin*, Anderson.



80 Munthira Raju of Muncie is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Yorktown Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Star Press*, Muncie.



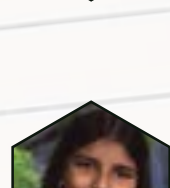
JAPAN
88 Sean Andrew Fogerty of Misawa is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Robert D. Edgren High School. His sponsor is *The Japan Times*, Tokyo.



72 Chloe G. Robison of Morgantown is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Brown County Junior High School. Her sponsor is Indiana University, Bloomington.



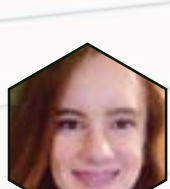
81 Matthew Phillip Ross of Orleans is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Orleans Junior Senior High School. His sponsor is Orange County Publishing Co. Inc., Paoli.



KANSAS
89 Kushala S.V. Madduru of Overland Park is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Cedar Hills Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Hays Daily News*.



73 Ashwin V. Prasad of Carmel is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Creekside Middle School. His sponsor is Williams Comfort Air, Carmel.



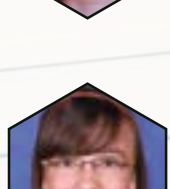
82 Olivia Hajicek of Goshen is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader with The Elkhart Area Christian Home Educators. Her sponsor is the *South Bend Tribune*.



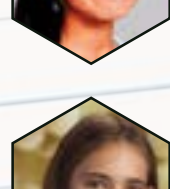
90 Vanya Shivashankar of Olathe is a 13-year-old 8th grader at California Trail Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Olathe News*.



74 Reese Steven Perry of Evansville is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Washington Middle School. His sponsor is the *Evansville Courier & Press*.



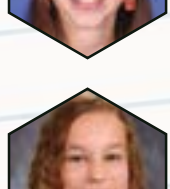
83 Katie Collins of Terre Haute is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Woodrow Wilson Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Tribune-Star*, Terre Haute.



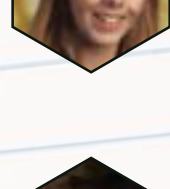
91 Ella M. Rosenkranz of Manhattan is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Topeka Capital-Journal*.



75 Lora A. Kuhaneck of Warsaw is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Edgewood Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Journal Gazette*, Fort Wayne.



84 Julia Oostema of Dyer is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Highland Christian School. Her sponsor is the Kankakee Valley REMC, Wanatah.



KENTUCKY
92 Paul Keaton of Pikeville is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Christ Central School. His sponsor is the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center, Lexington.



76 Cy Orentlicher of Indianapolis is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis. His sponsor is Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.



IOWA
85 Zander Reed of Ames is a home-schooled 12-year-old 7th grader with the Ames Homeschool Assistance Program. His sponsor is Iowa State University, Greenlee School of Journalism & Communication, Ames.



93 Tara Singh of Louisville is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Louisville Classical Academy. Her sponsor is WHAS-TV, Louisville.



77 Joseph Batis of Kokomo is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Northwestern Middle School. His sponsor is Ivy Tech Community College, Kokomo.



LOUISIANA
94 Abhirami Jeyaseelan of Baton Rouge is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Glasgow Middle School. Her sponsor is the Louisiana Children's Discovery Center, Hammond.



95 Megan Marie Lavergne of Lafayette is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Carencro Catholic School. Her sponsor is the Kiwanis Club of Lafayette.



96 Naysa Modi of Monroe is a 9-year-old 4th grader at River Oaks School. Her sponsor is *The News-Star*, Monroe.



97 Tien Thuy Nguyen of New Orleans is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Einstein Charter School. Her sponsor is *TheTimes-Picayune*, New Orleans.



98 Rosie Shultz of Ruston is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Cypress Springs Elementary School. Her sponsor is the Alliance For Education, Shreveport.



MAINE
99 Neil St. John of Bangor is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Bangor Christian School. His sponsor is Husson University, Bangor.



100 Bryce Morales of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Berwick Academy. His sponsor is the *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram*.



MARYLAND
101 William John Phillips Rogers of Annapolis is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Mary's Elementary School. His sponsor is Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Annapolis.



102 Andrew Lazenby of Baldwin is an 11-year-old 6th grader at St. James Academy. His sponsor is Learn It Systems, Baltimore.



103 Raffae Aman Chowdhury of Clarksburg is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Rocky Hill Middle School. His sponsor is The Meakem Group, Bethesda.



104 Lauren A. Smith of Jessup is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Bethel Christian Academy. Her sponsor is the Howard County Library, Columbia.



105 Selomi G. Dayaprema of Frederick is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Urbana Middle School. Her sponsor is the Frederick County Public Libraries.



106 Jan Lemoel Lomahan of Hagerstown is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Heritage Academy. His sponsor is *The Herald-Mail*, Hagerstown.



107 Tamyia Michelle Matthews of Clinton is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Mt. Calvary Catholic School. Her sponsor is *The Gazette & The Star*, Laurel.



108 Mark E. Beaulieu of Callaway is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Spring Ridge Middle School. His sponsor is *The Enterprise*, Lexington Park.



109 Selena Antosh of Prince Frederick is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Calvert Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Recorder*, Prince Frederick.



110 Gia Lauren B. Bautista of Salisbury is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Wicomico Middle School. Her sponsor is the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne.



111 Craig Storm of Waldorf is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Mattawoman Middle School. His sponsor is the *Maryland Independent*, Waldorf.



MASSACHUSETTS
112 Christy Jose Jestin of West Roxbury is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Boston Latin School. His sponsor is the Boston Centers for Youth & Families.



113 Lela Ann Festa of Still River is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Her sponsor is the *Sentinel & Enterprise*, Fitchburg.



114 Mitchell A. Robson of Marblehead is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Marblehead Community Charter Public School. His sponsor is *The Daily Item*, Lynn.



115 Spencer Pogue of Edgartown is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Edgartown School. His sponsor is *The Martha's Vineyard Times*, Vineyard Haven.



MICHIGAN
116 Neil S. Brahmabhatt of Canton is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Central Middle School. His sponsor is WXYZ Channel 7, Detroit.



117 Lily Mears of Grand Haven is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Lakeshore Middle School. Her sponsor is the Kent Intermediate School District, Grand Rapids.



118 Zander T. Worm of Ahmeek is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Washington Middle School. His sponsor is the Upper Peninsula Spelling Bee Collaborative, Iron Mountain.



119 Srinithi Kanakam of Jackson is a 10-year-old 6th grader at Paragon Charter Academy. Her sponsor is *The Jackson Citizen Patriot*.



120 John N. Ciurla of Imlay City is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Imlay City Middle School. His sponsor is *The County Press*, Lapeer.



121 Hailey Jeanne Hogenson of Ludington is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Mason County Central Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Ludington Daily News*.



122 Nathaniel Britton of Macomb is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Shelby Junior High School. His sponsor is *The Macomb Daily*.



123 Neha Middela of Bloomfield Hills is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Detroit Country Day School. Her sponsor is *The Oakland Press*, Pontiac.



124 Delaney Rae Knoll of Frankenmuth is a 12-year-old 6th grader at E.F. Rittmueller Middle School. Her sponsor is Saginaw Valley State University.



125 Brandon Kenneth Kirkendall of Buchanan is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Brandywine Middle/Senior High School. His sponsor is *The Herald Palladium*, St. Joseph.



126 Sophia Kate Thompson of Charlevoix is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Charlevoix Middle/High School. Her sponsor is the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.



MINNESOTA
127 Cade A. Klimek of Hibbing is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Chisholm High School. His sponsor is the Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Fergus Falls.



128 Maxwell E. Meyer of Shorewood is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Minnetonka Middle School East. His sponsor is Augsburg College, Minneapolis.



129 Briana Joseph of Fairmont is an 11-year-old 5th grader at St. John Vianney. Her sponsor is the South Central Service Cooperative, North Mankato.



130 Christine Farnberg of Byron is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Holy Spirit School. Her sponsor is the Southeast Service Cooperative, Rochester.



131 Ammy Lin of Baxter is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Forestview Middle School. Her sponsor is the National Joint Powers Alliance, Staples.



MISSISSIPPI
132 Dev Jaiswal of Louisville is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Winston Academy. His sponsor is the Mississippi Association of Educators, Jackson.



MISSOURI
133 Junah Jang of Columbia is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Ann Hawkins Gentry Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Columbia Daily Tribune*.



134 Sophia Noel Hoffman of Lee's Summit is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Highland Park Elementary School. Her sponsor is the Jackson-Clay County Spelling Bee Collaborative, Kansas City.



135 Joel C. Miles of Greenwood is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Eagle Glen Intermediate School. His sponsor is the Raymore-Peculiar School District.



136 River Blount of Annapolis is a home-schooled 11-year-old 6th grader with Pineywoods Christian Academy. His sponsor is Three Rivers Community College, Poplar Bluff.



137 Christine Sturgill of Sedalia is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Sedalia Middle School. Her sponsor is the Sedalia Spelling Bee Collaborative.



138 Kassie McKnight of Bolivar is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Bolivar Middle School. Her sponsor is the College of Arts and Letters - Missouri State University, Springfield.



139 Hayden Mildward of Maryville is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Maryville Middle School. His sponsor is the *St. Joseph News-Press*.



140 Gokul Venkatachalam of Chesterfield is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Parkway West Middle School. His sponsor is the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.



283 Allyson Margo Scribner of Parkville is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Plaza Middle School. Her sponsor is Plaza Middle School, Kansas City.



MONTANA
141 Ti'el Lochridge of Dillon is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Dillon Middle School. Her sponsor is Lee Newspapers of Montana, Billings.



NEBRASKA
142 Brooke Biby of Omaha is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Joslyn Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Omaha World-Herald*.



NEVADA
143 Daniel Taylor of Minden is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Grace Christian Academy. His sponsor is Greenspun Media Group, Las Vegas.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
144 Arushi Kalpande of Billerica, Massachusetts, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Nashua Catholic Regional Junior High School. Her sponsor is the *New Hampshire Union Leader*, Manchester.



NEW JERSEY
145 Sheikh R. Mahmud of Egg Harbor Township is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Alder Avenue Middle School. Her sponsor is the South Jersey Spelling Bee Collaborative, Galloway.



146 Linda Kalna of Hasbrouck Heights is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Hasbrouck Heights Middle School. Her sponsor is the Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs, Hackensack.



147 Sean Manuel of Bayonne is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Nicholas Oresko School #14. His sponsor is the Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Jersey City.



148 Darius Daniel Bermudez of Milford, Pennsylvania, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Delaware Valley Middle School. His sponsor is the Tri-State Spelling Bee Committee, Montague.



149 Frank Grabowski of Keyport is a 13-year-old 7th grader at St. Mary Elementary School. His sponsor is the *Asbury Park Press/Home News Tribune*, Neptune.



284 Katharine S. Wang of Morristown is a 13-year-old 8th grader at The Peck School. Her sponsor is The Peck School, Morristown.



NEW MEXICO
150 Anish Kumar of Santa Fe is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Desert Academy. His sponsor is *The Albuquerque Journal*.



NEW YORK
151 Lydia Loverin of East Nassau is a 13-year-old 7th grader at New Lebanon Junior-Senior High School. Her sponsor is the *Times Union*, Albany.



152 Michael W. Sobol of Williamsville is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Saints Peter & Paul School. His sponsor is *The Buffalo News*.



153 Jairam Jagadeesh Hathwar of Painted Post is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Alternative School for Math and Science. His sponsor is the Corning Rotary Club.



154 Gavin Buehler of Pultneyville is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Williamson Middle School. His sponsor is the *Finger Lakes Times*, Geneva.



155 Maggy X. Lambo of Gloversville is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Mayfield Junior-Senior High School. Her sponsor is *The Leader-Herald*, Gloversville.



156 Sahil Sangwan of East Setauket is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Paul J. Gelinus Junior High School. His sponsor is Hofstra University, Hempstead.



157 Shashwat Patel of Harriman is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Monroe-Woodbury Middle School. His sponsor is the *Times Herald-Record*, Middletown.



158 Sai Vishudhi Chandrasekhar of Flushing is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Hunter College High School. Her sponsor is the *Daily News*, New York.



159 Srinath Venkat Mahankali of Bayside Hills is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School 74. His sponsor is the *Daily News*, New York.



160 Monica "Mollie" L. Dugan of Morris is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Morris Central School. Her sponsor is *The Daily Star*, Oneonta.



161 Sydney Rose DeLapp of Oswego is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Kingsford Park Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Palladium-Times*, Oswego.



162 Grant A. Decker of Plattsburgh is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Beekmantown Middle School. His sponsor is the *Press-Republican*, Plattsburgh.



163 Stephen S. Ponzer of Chittenango is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Cazenovia High School. His sponsor is *The Post-Standard*, Syracuse.



164 Dylan O'Connor of Alexandria Bay is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Alexandria Central School. His sponsor is *The Watertown Daily Times*.



165 Harshita M. Shet of White Plains is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Richard J. Bailey School. Her sponsor is the Theodore D. Young Community Center, White Plains.



285 Sravanth Mohan Malla of Haverstraw is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Haverstraw Elementary School. His sponsor is Haverstraw Elementary School.



NORTH CAROLINA
166 Michael A. Steed of Burlington is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Turrentine Middle School. His sponsor is the *Times-News*, Burlington.



167 Akshra P. Paimagam of Charlotte is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Randolph Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Charlotte Observer*.



168 Abigail H. Pittman of Four Oaks is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Southside Christian School. Her sponsor is *The Clayton News-Star*.



169 Bettie Lehem Closs of Durham is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Lucas Middle School. Her sponsor is Duke University's Office of Durham and Regional Affairs.



170 Ashrita Vadlapatla of Fayetteville is an 11-year-old 7th grader at Renaissance Classical Christian Academy. Her sponsor is *The Fayetteville Observer*.



171 Kayleigh M. Guffey of Dallas is a 13-year-old 7th grader at First Wesleyan Christian School. Her sponsor is *The Gaston Gazette*, Gastonia.



172 Andrew Bowen of Angier is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Angier Elementary School. His sponsor is the Harnett County Spelling Bee Collaborative, Lillington.



173 Rohan Sachdev of Cary is a home-schooled 10-year-old 6th grader with Cary Homeschoolers. His sponsor is PAGE of Wake County, Raleigh.



174 Hannah Elise Gerlach of Rocky Mount is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Red Oak Middle School. Her sponsor is the Delta Center for Life Development, Inc., Rocky Mount.



175 Emily Garcia of Sanford is a 13-year-old 8th grader at East Lee Middle School. Her sponsor is PAGE of Lee County, Sanford.



176 Rexen B. Venevongsoth of Kings Mountain is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Kings Mountain Middle School. His sponsor is *The Shelby Star*.



177 Lily Spalding of Beaufort is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Beaufort Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Washington Daily News*.



178 Olivia G. Pedigo of Wilson is a home-schooled 12-year-old 6th grader. Her sponsor is *The Wilson Times*.



179 Allison M. Brower of Huntersville is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Pine Lake Preparatory. Her sponsor is the *Winston-Salem Journal*.



NORTH DAKOTA
180 Madeline Rickert of Minot is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Erik Ramstad Middle School. Her sponsor is the North Dakota Association of County Superintendents, Bismarck.



OHIO
181 Owen Kovalik of Medina is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Medina Christian Academy. His sponsor is the *Akron Beacon Journal*.



182 Dray A. Remy of Wellston is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Wellston Middle School. His sponsor is Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication, Athens.



183 Lipika Narisetti of Hilliard is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Hilliard Heritage Middle School. Her sponsor is the Ohio University Libraries, Athens.



184 Shiv Sathya Dewan of North Canton is a 12-year-old 7th grader at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School. His sponsor is *The Repository*, Canton.



185 Manu U. Nair of Union, Kentucky, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Gray Middle School. His sponsor is WCPO 9 On Your Side, Cincinnati.



186 Abhilash Yarlagadda of Blue Ash is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Sycamore Junior High School. His sponsor is WCPO 9 On Your Side, Cincinnati.



187 Andrew France of Chagrin Falls is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Ohio Virtual Academy. His sponsor is the Northeast Ohio Media Group, Cleveland.



188 Mary Jo Johnson of Fairborn is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Fairborn Baker Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Dayton Daily News*.



189 Emma E. Jankowski of Avon Lake is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Learwood Middle School. Her sponsor is the Educational Service Center of Lorain County, LaGrange.



190 Joshua R. Mason of Pickerington is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Diley Middle School. His sponsor is the *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*.



191 Alotus Nguyen Wei of Lima is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Shawnee Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Lima News*.



192 Marilyn B. Santo of Vienna, West Virginia, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Jackson Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Marietta Times*.



193 Sadie McFarland of St. Clairsville is a 14-year-old 7th grader at Union Local Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Times Leader*, Martins Ferry.



194 Vince Hoppel of East Liverpool is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Beaver Local Middle School. His sponsors are *Salem News*, *East Liverpool Review* and *The Morning Journal*.



195 Jasmine M. Black of Hammondsville is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Edison High School. Her sponsor is *The Herald-Star*, Steubenville.



196 Phoebe M. Jackson of Elmore is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Woodmore Junior High School. Her sponsor is *The Blade*, Toledo.



197 Marie Wallie of Southington is a home-schooled 15-year-old 8th grader with T.E.A.C.H. Her sponsor is *The Tribune Chronicle*, Warren.



198 Melina V. Gabele of Willoughby is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Mater Dei Academy. Her sponsor is *The News-Herald*, Willoughby.



199 Annabelle Day of Boardman is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Willow Creek Learning Center. Her sponsor is *The Vindicator*, Youngstown.



OKLAHOMA
200 Cole Shafer-Ray of Norman is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Alcott Middle School. His sponsor is *The Oklahoman*, Oklahoma City.



201 Muhammad Harris of Tulsa is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Peace Academy. His sponsor is KJRH-TV, Tulsa.



OREGON
202 Natalie Y. Cha of West Linn is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Three Rivers Charter School. Her sponsor is the *Portland Tribune*.



PENNSYLVANIA
203 Aidan Graham of Ardmore is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Cardinal John Foley Regional Catholic School. His sponsor is *The Chester Spirit*.



204 Aakash Narayan of Malvern is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Great Valley Middle School. His sponsor is the Chester County Intermediate Unit, Downingtown.



205 John M. Grifone of Forks Township is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Jane Frances de Chantal School. His sponsor is *The Express-Times*, Easton.



206 Eugene Lee of Palmyra is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Palmyra Area Middle School. His sponsor is WITF: Public Media for Central Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.



207 William H. Yaeger of Lancaster is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Centerville Middle School. His sponsor is LNP Always Lancaster.



208 Bill Jerdan of Hatfield is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Pennridge Central Middle School. His sponsor is the Pennridge Community Education Foundation, Perkasio.



209 Tiphonie J. Chang of Philadelphia is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Philadelphia Academy Charter School. Her sponsor is *The Philadelphia Tribune*.



210 Atharv Bhave of Canonsburg is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Canonsburg Middle School. His sponsor is the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



211 Nevaeh Lopez of Shenandoah is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Shenandoah Valley High School. Her sponsor is *The Republican Herald*, Pottsville.



219 Rebecca A. Liu of Florence is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Williams Middle School. Her sponsor is the Pee Dee Education Center, Florence.



227 Annalise Wade of Big Sandy is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Big Sandy School. Her sponsors are *The Jackson Sun* and Union University.



212 Hilary Edwina Good of Reading is a 13-year-old 8th grader at La Salle Academy. Her sponsor is the *Reading Eagle*.



220 Gracie Benton of Conway is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Conway Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Sun News*, Myrtle Beach.



228 Caitlyn Marentette of Sevierville is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Pittman Center Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Knoxville News Sentinel*.



213 Brandi Naprava of Hazle Township is a 12-year-old 6th grader at West Hazleton Elementary/Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Times Leader*, Wilkes-Barre.



221 Kalika Melody Burnett Bridwell of Woodruff is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Florence Chapel Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Herald-Journal*, Spartanburg.



229 Bates Bennett of Starkville, Mississippi, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Starkville Academy. His sponsor is *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis.



PUERTO RICO

214 Alexandra Isabel Harper of Guayama is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Guamaní Private School. Her sponsor is the Commonwealth-Parkville School, San Juan.



SOUTH DAKOTA

222 Owen Coltrane Dudley of Vermillion is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Vermillion Middle School. His sponsor is the University of South Dakota, Vermillion.



230 Cady Baltz of Germantown is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Houston Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis.



RHODE ISLAND

215 Christopher E. Relyea of Lincoln is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Lincoln Middle School. His sponsor is *The Valley Breeze*, Cumberland.



SOUTH KOREA

223 Suin Jung of Busan is a 12-year-old 5th grader at Busan Foreign School. Her sponsor is Yoon's English School, Seoul.



TEXAS

231 Jack Miller of Abilene is a home-schooled 11-year-old 5th grader with Big Country Home Educators. His sponsor is the *Abilene Reporter-News*.



SOUTH CAROLINA

216 Meagan Olivia White of Barnwell is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Barnwell Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Allendale Sun*.



SOUTH KOREA

224 Seungtaek Oh of Seoul is a 15-year-old 8th grader at Dunchon Middle School. His sponsor is Yoon's English School, Seoul.



232 Olivia Chen of Amarillo is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Windsor Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Amarillo Globe-News*.



217 Emily C. Ladines of Pendleton is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Riverside Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Anderson Independent Mail*.



TENNESSEE

225 Jerilyn Celeste Challenger of Gallatin is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Joe Shafer Middle School. Her sponsor is the Crossings Nashville Action Partnership, Antioch.



233 Kaelin Avery Bunting of Corpus Christi is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Tuloso-Midway Intermediate School. Her sponsor is the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*.



218 Razeen Basunia of North Charleston is a 12-year-old 8th grader at Rollings Middle School of the Arts. His sponsor is *The Post and Courier*, Charleston.



226 Audrey A. Frische of Soddy Daisy is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Loftis Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.



234 Smrithi Upadhyayula of Coppell is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Coppell Middle School West. Her sponsor is *The Dallas Morning News*.



235 Liam Nyikos of Carlsbad, New Mexico, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Riverside Elementary School. His sponsor is the *El Paso Times*.



236 Michelle Yakubek of Bedford is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Harmony Science Academy Euless. Her sponsor is Texas Christian University, Fort Worth.



237 Shobha Dasari of Spring is a 14-year-old 8th grader at McCullough Junior High School. Her sponsor is Houston Public Media.



245 Catherine Raine Esparza of San Antonio is a 14-year-old 8th grader at BASIS San Antonio. Her sponsor is the *San Antonio Express-News*.



246 Muriel Margaret Cotman of Cuero is a home-schooled 14-year-old 8th grader with The Acorn School. Her sponsor is the *Victoria Advocate*.



247 Jacob K. Turner of Woodway is a 15-year-old 8th grader at Midway Middle School. His sponsor is Rapoport Holdings, LLC, Waco.



238 Siddharth Krishnakumar of Pearland is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Pearland Junior High West. His sponsor is Houston Public Media.



248 Connor Luke Mitchell of Henrietta is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Notre Dame Catholic School. His sponsor is the *Times Record News*, Wichita Falls.



239 Kiran K. Malik of Laredo is an 11-year-old 6th grader at United Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Laredo Morning Times*.



240 Grant L. Taylor of Lubbock is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Lubbock Christian School. His sponsor is the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*.



241 Tristan A. Salinas of Lyford is a 13-year-old 7th grader at W.B. Green Junior High School. His sponsor is Rio Grande Valley AIM Media Texas, McAllen.



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

249 Makayla G. Todman of Kinghill is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Lew Muckle Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Virgin Islands Daily News*, St. Thomas.



242 Anna-Duyen A. Ngo of Midland is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Carver Center. Her sponsor is the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*.



UTAH

250 Meimi A. Teeple of Provo is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Center for Accelerated Studies at Provo Peaks Elementary. Her sponsor is Utah Valley University, Orem.



243 Evan Haley of Odessa is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Bowie Junior High School. His sponsor is the *Odessa American*.



251 Brody Dicks of Park City is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Weilenmann School of Discovery. His sponsor is the *Park Record*, Park City.



252 James Bryner of Price is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Mont Harmon Middle School. His sponsor is the Southeast Education Service Center, Price.



253 Ariana K. Babbitt of South Jordan is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Navigator Pointe Academy. Her sponsors are *The City Journals* and Overstock.com, Salt Lake City.



VERMONT

254 Lucinda Maybelle Storz of Lyndonville is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Thaddeus Stevens School. Her sponsor is the *Rutland Herald/Barre Times-Argus*.



VIRGINIA

255 Samuel T. Pereles of Waynesboro is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Kate Collins Middle School. His sponsors are *The News-Virginian* and *The Daily Progress*, Charlottesville.



256 Caleb D. Adams of Danville is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Westwood Middle School. His sponsors are Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Danville.



257 Jessie Ditton of Stafford is a home-schooled 14-year-old 8th grader with SRCH. Her sponsor is *The Free Lance-Star*, Fredericksburg.





258 Mary Elizabeth A. Vaughan of Harrisonburg is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Thomas Harrison Middle School. Her sponsor is the Rockingham District Ruritans, Harrisonburg.



266 Ethan Drake Stinson of Bluefield is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Graham Middle School. His sponsor is Tazewell County Fair Association.



273 Andrew Shawn Gould of Weston is a 13-year-old 6th grader at Robert L. Bland Middle School. His sponsor is *The Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram*.



259 Shiv Dang Lamba of Centreville is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Loudoun Country Day School. His sponsor is *Leesburg Today*.



267 Carson Christopher Brown of Mathews is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Thomas Hunter Middle School. His sponsor is Adult Literacy on the Middle Peninsula, Williamsburg.



274 Marleah J.A. Knights of Morgantown is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Suncrest Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Dominion Post*, Morgantown.



260 Eujine Kim of Lynchburg is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Robert S. Payne Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The News & Advance*, Lynchburg.



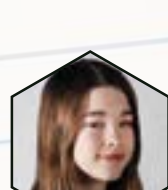
268 Edwin Estep of Berryville is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader with Northern Shenandoah Valley Homeschoolers. His sponsor is the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Shenandoah Valley, Winchester.



275 Lillian Taylor Bischof of Wheeling is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Saint Michael Parish School. Her sponsor is *The Catholic Spirit*, Wheeling.



261 Ankita Vadiala of Manassas is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Stonewall Middle School. Her sponsor is *Prince William Today*, Manassas.



WASHINGTON
269 Julia McCoy of Stanwood is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Mount Vernon Christian School. Her sponsor is the *Skagit Valley Herald*, Mount Vernon.



WISCONSIN
276 Meghna Datta of Verona is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Glacier Creek Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.



262 Eliza V. Willett of Virginia Beach is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader. Her sponsor is *The Virginian-Pilot*, Norfolk.



270 Ayush Noori of Issaquah is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Open Window School. His sponsor is Town Hall Seattle.



277 Ashwin Sankrithi of New Berlin is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Eisenhower Middle School. His sponsor is the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.



263 Trisha Balakrishnan of Fairfax is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Greenbriar West Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Fairfax County Times*, Reston.



271 Ashley Marie Blakemore of Omak is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Omak Middle School. Her sponsor is the North Central Washington Collaborative Spelling Bee, Wenatchee.



278 Martius Isaac Bautista of Janesville is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Edgewood Campus School. His sponsor is the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.



264 Tejas Muthusamy of Glen Allen is a 12-year-old 6th grader at George H. Moody Middle School. His sponsor is the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.



265 Kyoko R. Leaman of Roanoke is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Cave Spring Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Roanoke Times*.



WEST VIRGINIA
272 Varun Kukkillaya of Charleston is a 14-year-old 8th grader at John Adams Middle School. His sponsor is the *Charleston Gazette-Mail*.



WYOMING
279 JoJo Widi of Cheyenne is a 13-year-old 8th grader at McCormick Junior High School. His sponsor is the Wyoming Community Foundation, Laramie.

Speller 17 can be found on page 20 under China.
Speller 280, 281 and 282 can be found on page 20 under Connecticut.
Speller 283 can be found on page 24 under Missouri.
Speller 284 can be found on page 25 under New Jersey.
Speller 285 can be found on page 26 under New York.

Leadership and Year-Round Staff



Paige Kimble
Executive Director
Paige is the 1981 national champion and the 1980 runner-up, representing the *El Paso Herald-Post*. She has served the program in various capacities for the past 32 years, including 18 years as executive director.



Nicole Dittoe
Local Sponsorship Specialist
Nicole works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her fifth year with the program.



Corrie Loeffler
Program Manager, Editorial
Corrie is serving her ninth year on the Bee's full-time staff after having served five years on crew and one year on staff. She represented the *Merced Sun-Star* in the 1994, 1995 and 1996 national finals, tying for sixth place in 1995.



Darryl Porter
Senior Business Analyst
Darryl works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is his second year with the program.



Cybelle Weeks
Program Manager, Operations and Local Sponsorship
Cybelle works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her 18th year with the program.



Tyler Hyde
Program Coordinator
Tyler works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her first year with the program.



Beth Hecquet
Program Manager, Events
Beth works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her first year with the program.



Maggie Sears
Editorial Coordinator
Maggie works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her first year with the program.



Laurie Morris
Editorial Specialist
Laurie works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her third year with the program.



Emily Dunford
Response Coordinator
Emily works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her first year with the program.



The E.W. Scripps Company
Rich Boehne
Rich is president, chairman and chief executive officer of The E.W. Scripps Company.

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Officials



Dr. Jacques A. Bailly
Pronouncer

Dr. Bailly is the 1980 national champion, representing the *Rocky Mountain News*. He is an associate professor of classics at the University of Vermont. This is his 13th year as pronouncer after having served 12 years as associate pronouncer.



Dr. Brian M. Sietsema
Associate Pronouncer

Dr. Sietsema is an ordained priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and serves a parish in Lansing, Michigan. After receiving a doctorate in linguistics in 1989, he was the pronunciation editor for Merriam-Webster from 1990 to 1998. This is Dr. Sietsema's 13th year as associate pronouncer.



Mary Brooks
Head Judge

Mrs. Brooks is a retired West Des Moines, Iowa, educator. She has served the program in various capacities for the past 44 years, including 28 years as a judge and five years as co-director.



Blake Giddens
Judge

Mr. Giddens is the 1983 national champion, representing the *El Paso Herald-Post*. He is a professional engineer for a civil engineering firm in Fairfax, Virginia. This is his 15th year as a judge after having served five years as auxiliary judge and four years on staff.



Dr. Ed Low
Judge

Dr. Low is a professor emeritus of English at the Metropolitan State University of Denver. This is Dr. Low's 22nd year as a judge. He has served as a judge for Denver's spelling bee program for 28 years and for the *Daily Camera* (Boulder) spelling bee for 16 years.



George Thampy
Judge

Mr. Thampy is the 2000 national champion, representing the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. He works in pharmaceutical marketing for Eli Lilly & Company in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is Mr. Thampy's fourth year as judge after having served six years on staff.

Bee Week Staff



Mark Bezold
Production Staff

Mark is director of application services for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Mark Bowen
Photographer

Mark is a professional free-lance visual content provider in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Bryan Brandeberry
Production Staff

Bryan is a systems architect for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Jordan Crone
Production Staff

Jordan is a user experience/interface designer for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Mike Epstein
Production Staff

Mike is senior director of risk management and business continuity for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Rick Ferguson
Production Staff

Rick is director of external communications for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Dave Giles
Production Staff

Dave is vice president, deputy general counsel and chief ethics officer for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Paul Gilman
Stage Manager

Paul is manager of application development for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Abi Haggerty
Production Staff

Abi is director of development and stewardship for the Scripps Howard Foundation in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Jeff Hassan
Production Staff

Jeff is managing director for planning for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Kristin Hawkins
Production Staff

Kristin currently works in Moscow, Russia. Kristin represented the *Loudoun Times-Mirror* in the 1999, 2000 and 2001 national finals, placing second in 2001.



Clinton Hess
Production Staff

Clinton is senior director of IT project office for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Robyn Hildal
Production Staff

Robyn is vice president of talent and diversity for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Robbin Holliday
Production Staff

Robbin recently retired from her position as vice president of finance and administration for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Arielle Kass
Production Staff

Arielle is a reporter for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in Atlanta, Georgia.



Andrea Kilgore
Production Staff

Andrea is senior vice president at ColorNine, a marketing consultancy in Mason, Ohio.



Vagelis "V" Kontopos
Production Staff

V is director of human capital solutions for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Vince Marciano
Production Staff

Vince is general manager of United Feature Syndicate, part of The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Valerie Miller
Production Staff

Valerie is corporate communications manager for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Angela Minton
Production Staff

Angela is a program manager for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Sameer Mishra
Production Staff

Sameer is an Economics and Statistics major at Columbia University. He is the 2008 national champion, representing the *Journal and Courier* in Lafayette, Indiana.



Kevin Moch
Production Staff

Kevin is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Berkeley. He represented North Dakota in the 2001 and 2002 national finals, tying for third place in 2002.



Amanda Moore
Production Staff

Amanda is a social media marketing specialist for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Rob Morrison
Production Staff

Rob is a systems analyst for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Bret G. Nealis
Production Staff

Bret is a software engineer from Mason, Ohio, and owns Professional Consulting Services, Inc.



Bridget Nealis
Production Staff

Bridget is a personal banker for Fifth Third Bank in Greensburg, Indiana.



Malorie Nealis
Production Staff

Malorie is a recent graduate from The Ohio State University and just began her career with Campus Crusade for Christ at the university.



Tara Osborne
Production Staff

Tara is a digital strategist for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Brett Pappas
Production Staff

Brett is an application architect for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Eric Peguero
Production Staff

Eric is senior director of training for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Carole Rawlins
Production Staff

Carole is in the corporate communications department at The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Jon Reischel
Production Staff

Jon is the owner of ColorNine, a marketing consultancy in Mason, Ohio.



Paul Riccobene
Production Staff

Paul is a network architect for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Lee Rose
Production Staff

Lee is director of community investments for the Scripps Howard Foundation in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Brian Schermerhorn
Production Staff

Brian is a program manager for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Kimball Sigala
Production Staff

Kimball is director of network engineering for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Bob Stec
Production Staff

Bob is a director of systems engineering for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Lee Swett
Production Staff

Lee is a desktop support technician for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



David Taylor
Production Staff

David is a desktop support architect for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Jennifer Teets
Production Staff

Jennifer is an information security analyst for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Barrie Trinkle
Production Staff

Barrie is a free-lance editor in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She is the 1973 national champion, representing the *Fort Worth Press*.



Anamika Veeramani
Production Staff

Anamika is an undergraduate at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. She is the 2010 national champion, representing the *Plain Dealer* in Cleveland, Ohio.



About Scripps

The E.W. Scripps Company (www.scripps.com) serves audiences and businesses through a growing portfolio of media brands. In April 2015, Scripps merged its 21 local television stations with 12 television stations and 34 radio stations that belonged to Journal Communications, making Scripps the nation's fifth-largest independent owner of TV stations. The two companies also spun off their combined newspaper interests.

Scripps also runs an expanding collection of local and national digital journalism and information businesses, including mobile video news service Newsy and weather app developer WeatherSphere. Scripps also produces television shows including *The List* and *Let's Ask America*, runs an award-winning investigative reporting newsroom in Washington, D.C., and serves as the long-time steward of the nation's largest, most successful and longest-running educational program, the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Scripps National Spelling Bee
312 Walnut Street, 28th Floor
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Before and after Bee Week:
513-977-3040

Media Desk during Bee Week
(May 25 – May 29): 301-965-5591

Speller & Sponsor Desk during
Bee Week (May 25 – May 29):
301-965-5590



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