

Spelling Bee

I. General Information

- Grades 4th-8th allowed
- A separate competition will be held for MS (6th-8th grades) and Elementary (4th-5th grades)
- Each school will have their own competition and their top two spellers, from each group, will advance to region competition (boys or girls) (Two from 4th/5th & two from 6th - 8th)
- The number of students advancing to State will be adjusted yearly, by the GICAA-the determining factors are the number of regions and how many schools are in the region. (The top 4 per region will be the suggested number)
- If your school plans to advance to Scripps Howard, you must register with Scripps individually
- The spelling competition will be done orally and by Scripps Howard rules.
<http://spellingbee.com/rules-prizes>
- Words will be obtained by the GICAA from the online version of the Merriam Webster Dictionary and Thesaurus. It can be found here:
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/> the online version is the final authority and sole source for the spelling words.
- The GICAA will adopt the Scripps National Spelling Bee Eligibility Rule 1:1-13~
<http://spellingbee.com/node/96#eligibility>
and the GAE Rules and Regulations~
<http://pv.gae2.org/content.asp?ContentId=3343>
- A good resource to help with studying spelling words is:
<http://www.spellingcity.com/>

II. Scripps

A speller qualifying for the 2019 Scripps National Spelling Bee (the Bee) must meet the requirements as set forth by Scripps here:

<http://spellingbee.com/rules-prizes>

III. Pronouncer's Role

The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings given to them by the GICAA and taken from the online version of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

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/phonetics, a definition, sentence, part of speech. When presented with requests for alternate pronunciations, the pronouncer or associate pronouncer checks for alternate pronunciations in Webster's Online dictionary.

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 on the information provided by the GICAA or in the Webster's Online Dictionary.

IV. 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 judge. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.

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.

V. Judge's Role

The judges listen carefully, determine whether or not words are spelled correctly and uphold the rules. The decisions of the judges are final. There will be three judges including the Pronouncer.

Misunderstandings: The judges will not respond to the speller's question(s) about the word and its pronunciation. 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 or punctuation.

Protests: All protests must be made before next student's word is given!

Alternate Spellings: From Scripps: Rule 4: Official Dictionary and Source of Words Merriam-Webster Unabridged, available at <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com>, 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 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) that differ from main entry spellings not having these status labels will not be accepted as correct.

VI. End-of-Bee Procedure:

If all spellers in an oral spelling 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 correctly spells 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. Medals will be awarded to the top two placing students.