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90

C E L E B R A T I N G 9 0 Y E A R S

2017 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE
BEE WEEK GUIDE

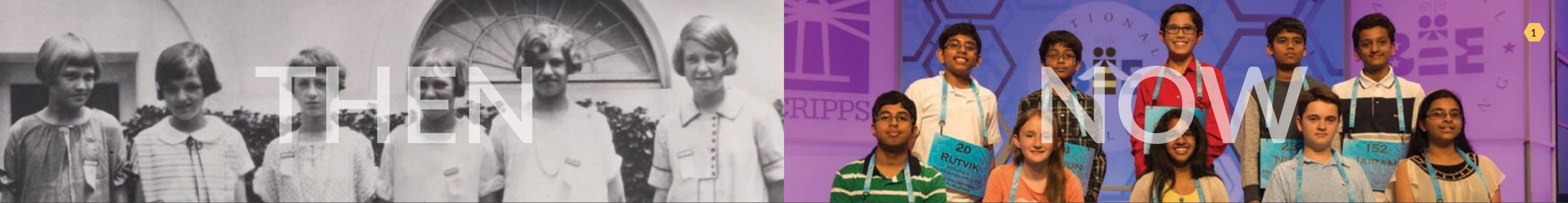


Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Competition Schedule | 1 |
| Thank You to Our Sponsors | 2 |
| Spellebrity Video Contest Finalists | 3 |
| Contest Rules | 4 |
| Journey to the Trophy | 8 |
| 20 Questions | 10 |
| Get to Know the 90th Class of National Finalists | 14 |
| Champions and Their Winning Words | 16 |
| Celebrating 90 Years of the National Spelling Bee | 18 |
| Prizes | 20 |
| Spellers and Sponsors | 21 |
| Leadership and Year-Round Staff | 34 |
| Officials and College Crew | 35 |
| Bee Week Staff | 36 |

90 Years?
Your math is weird!
Actually, the Bee
wasn't held from 1943
through 1945, so this is
our 90th competition.
Learn more here!

Competition Schedule

Tuesday, May 30

Preliminaries Test
8:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m. | Maryland Ballroom
All spellers will participate in this multiple choice test.

Wednesday, May 31

Preliminaries: Round Two Live on ESPN3
8:00 a.m. — 12:15 p.m. | Maryland Ballroom

- Spellers 1 through 145 spell onstage between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
- Spellers 146 through 291 spell onstage between 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Preliminaries: Round Three Live on ESPN3
1:15 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. | Maryland Ballroom

- Spellers 1 through 145 spell onstage between 1:15 and 3:30 p.m.
- Spellers 146 through 291 spell onstage between 3:45 and 5:00 p.m.

Announcement of Finalists
Approximately 6:00 p.m. | Maryland Ballroom

Thursday, June 1

Finals: Live on ESPN2
Beginning at 10:00 a.m. | Maryland Ballroom

Tiebreaker Test
Beginning at 6:00 p.m. | Camellia 3

Finals: Live on ESPN
Pre-Broadcast Program Beginning at 7:30 p.m. | Maryland Ballroom
The live broadcast will begin at 8:30 p.m.

All Wednesday times (except for the start of Round Two) are approximate and may vary by up to an hour.

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Find our official photos at [flickr.com/ScrippsBee](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ScrippsBee/).

The first national spelling bee was held in 1925.

That means the Bee is older than...

90 YEARS



1926
Television

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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

Before our national finalists were great spellers, they were great readers. The Scripps National Spelling Bee and Kindle share a love of letters, words and reading. Now, with Kindle as the presenting sponsor of the Bee, two internationally recognized brands are working together to spark a love of reading and foster an appreciation of the power of words.

Over the coming year, the Bee and Kindle will work together to deepen the learning experience for all spellers. Starting at the classroom level of competition, the 11 million students who participate in the Bee each year will have the opportunity to study from a list of words found in exciting and inspiring Kindle titles: what we call our “Great Words, Great Works” reading list. Kindle features like Kindle FreeTime and Word Wise, which automatically provides short and simple definitions above difficult words, encourage students to read more challenging books with fewer interruptions and introduce them to new worlds of spelling and vocabulary words.

The Bee thanks Kindle for generously supporting our program at every level, from classroom to Finals. We are proud to celebrate our presenting sponsor this Bee Week, as we join in celebrating the enormous talents of our champion spellers.

Kindle joins a growing number of companies that show their enthusiasm for education by supporting the Bee, including Merriam-Webster, Encyclopædia Britannica and Bananagrams.

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 22](#).



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This year, the Bee and Kindle sponsored the second Spellebrity Video Contest, an opportunity for students to create short, fun videos that inspire others to “Kindle the love of reading.”

On Tuesday, May 29, spellers will attend the Spellebrity Video Contest Premiere to watch the Finalist videos, ask questions of the filmmakers, and receive their ballots to cast a vote for the Champion video!

Join us for the Spellebrity Video Contest Premiere in the Maryland Ballroom on Tuesday, May 29, at 7:00 p.m.

The following five teams were declared Finalists following a public voting period, and each team received an expenses-paid trip to the 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Bigham Yago

Valencia, California
Rio Norte Junior High
School and Tesoro del
Valle Elementary School

Bryn with a Bee

Lawrence, Kansas
Southwest
Middle School

Kindle Cousins

Oneonta, New York
Oneonta Middle School

Orem, Utah
Windsor
Elementary School

Team Champion

Chandler, Arizona
Champion Chandler
Charter School
and Kyrene
Traditional Academy

The Fab Four

Cedar Park, Texas
Westside
Elementary School

Salt Lake City, Utah
Evergreen Junior High
School and Highland Park
Elementary School



1957
Spellers with Ed Sullivan



2014
Spellers with Jimmy Kimmel

90 YEARS
The Bee is older than...



1927
Sliced bread



1928
Bubble gum



1929
Sunglasses



1961 Champion
John Capehart



2005 Champion
Anurag Kashyap

Contest Rules

Rule 1: Eligibility

A speller qualifying for the 2017 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, 2017.
- (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 April 18, 2017 and the Bee will, in its sole discretion, determine the speller's eligibility status on or before April 30, 2017.
- (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, 2017.
- (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 29, 2016, and May 22, 2017.
- (9) The speller must not have reached the age of 15 on or before August 31, 2016.
- (10) The speller must have been declared a champion of a final local spelling bee on or after February 1, 2017, or be a spelling champion of a school whose application for participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee's school self-sponsorship program has received final approval by the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
- (11) The speller must not have been disqualified at any level of a sponsor's spelling bee program between June 2016 and April 2017. Further, if the speller becomes disqualified at any level of a sponsor's spelling bee program before April 2017, 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 Registration form, a signed Appearance Consent and Release Agreement, a signed Certification of Eligibility Form, a signed General Liability Waiver, and 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 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 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee and April 30, 2018 — 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 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Rule 2: Preliminaries Format

The Preliminaries takes place on May 30 and 31 and is the first of two distinct segments of the competition, Preliminaries and Finals.

The Preliminaries consists of a test with written spelling items and multiple choice vocabulary items (Preliminaries Test) administered Tuesday, May 30, at 8:30 a.m. EDT, and two rounds of oral spelling onstage on Wednesday, May 31, 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.

The Preliminaries Test has 26 written and multiple choice items divided in four sections, with spellers identifying their responses on test forms. A speller receives one point for each of the 12 items spelled 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 31, 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 Finals are tied for the same place.



Rule 3: Finals Format

The Finals takes place on Thursday, June 1, and is the second of two distinct segments of the competition, Preliminaries and Finals.

The Finals consists of rounds of oral spelling beginning with Round Four and continuing, with breaks as the officials deem necessary, until a champion is declared, or co-champions are declared. The Finals also consists of a Tiebreaker Test, which will be offered to all spellers remaining in the Finals at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 1. The Tiebreaker Test consists of 24 items: 12 spelling and 12 multiple choice vocabulary. Each correct response is worth one point.

All spellers who have not been eliminated from the competition spell one word in each round. Upon incorrectly spelling a word during an oral spelling round, 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.

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.

Round Limit and Provision for Declaration of Co-Champions: There will be no more than 25 consecutive rounds of oral spelling involving three or fewer spellers. At the end of a round when it is mathematically impossible for a single champion to emerge through oral spelling in subsequent rounds, the officials will disclose only the Tiebreaker Test scores of the spellers remaining in the competition. The speller remaining in the competition with the highest Tiebreaker Test score will be declared champion, and the ranking of the other remaining spellers will be determined by their Tiebreaker Test scores. If, however, there is a tie on the Tiebreaker Test among the remaining spellers, the spellers with the highest tying score will be declared co-champions.

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.

Rule 5: Time

Constraints: During the Preliminaries Test and Tiebreaker Test, 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 and 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 6: 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 executive director of the Bee before May 1, 2017. The judges have discretionary power to amend spelling requirements on a case-by-case basis for spellers with diagnosed medical conditions.

Rule 7: Pronouncer's Role

The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in Merriam-Webster Unabridged.

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, a 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 Merriam-Webster Unabridged. 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 5.

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 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee word list or Merriam-Webster Unabridged.

Rule 8: 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 5. 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 9: 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 7.

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.



Journey to the Trophy

PRELIMINARIES

Preliminaries Test

Tuesday morning, May 30

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Round 1 Spelling | 12 words | 1 point each |
| Round 1 Vocabulary | 12 words | 1 point each |
| Rounds 2 and 3 Vocabulary | 1 word per | 3 points each |

Earn up to 30 points for correct responses.

Round Two Spelling

Wednesday morning, May 31 | ESPN3

Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

Round Three Spelling

Wednesday afternoon, May 31 | ESPN3

Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

FINALS

Finals Threshold: Announcement of Finalists

Wednesday, May 31, approximately 6 p.m. | ESPN3

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

Finals: Beginning with Round Four

Thursday, June 1, 10 a.m. | ESPN2

The first portion of the Finals will continue through approximately 2:00 p.m. or until Bee Officials determine a break is needed.

Finals, continued

Thursday, June 1, 8:30 p.m. | ESPN

Spell correctly



CHAMPION!

1. 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.
2. 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.

See rule 3 on page 6 for details on end-of-bee procedure and provisions for declaring co-champions.

90 YEARS
The Bee is older than...



1936
Helicopters



1937
Shopping carts



1938
Soft serve

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, Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online. Bee rules state that Merriam-Webster Unabridged 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 Merriam-Webster Unabridged. 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 Merriam-Webster Unabridged. Diacritical markings are symbols such as ä and ŋ 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.

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?

During the Preliminaries Test, Dr. Bailly will pause for 20 seconds between each word or vocabulary question. At the end of the Preliminaries Test, spellers will be able to take advantage of two consecutive five-minute review periods. 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 Merriam-Webster Unabridged) 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 that 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.

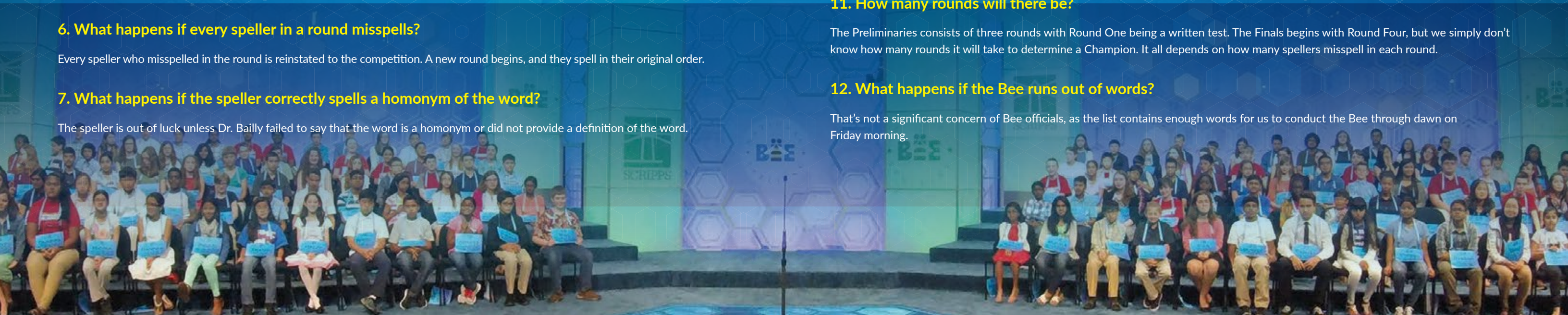
If the officials detect a lack of understanding, they will do all that they can within the limits of the rules to help the speller achieve an understanding of the word.

11. How many rounds will there be?

The Preliminaries consists of three rounds with Round One being a written test. The Finals begins with Round Four, 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.



90 YEARS

The Bee is older than...



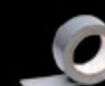
1939

• Snowboards



1941

• Velcro



1942

• Duct tape

13. Why do the screens count down from 25 rounds at the end of the Bee?

The screens count down from 25 rounds to indicate that the Bee has moved into the Championship Rounds. If a Champion is not determined in the course of administering a maximum of 25 rounds, the Tiebreaker Test scores will come into play.

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 Finals?

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 |

No more than 50 spellers will make it to the Finals. In this example, the Finals 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 Finals.

The remainder of this sample scoring distribution table not shown.

17. How many spellers usually advance beyond the Preliminaries?

Looking over the past five Bees, 45 spellers advanced beyond the Preliminaries in 2016. In 2015, it was 49; 2014: 46; 2013: 42; and 2012: 50.

18. When will the daytime portion of the Finals end?

Bee officials will pause the competition until the primetime portion of the Finals when there are about a dozen spellers remaining onstage — give or take a few spellers. The pause in competition is at the sole discretion of Bee officials, and it may come at the end of a round or while a round is under way.

19. How many spellers usually appear in the primetime portion of the Finals?

Looking back over the past five Bees, 10 spellers advanced in 2016. In 2015, it was 10; 2014: 12; 2013: 11; and 2012: 9.

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

Here is a summary:

Timing of Competition Exit

- Misspell in Round Two
- Misspell in Round Three
- In Bee at the end of Round Three but do not qualify for the Finals
- Misspell during the Finals

Rank

- Number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Two +1
- Number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Three +1
- Number of Finalists +1
- Number of spellers spelling in the round occurring immediately after the round in which speller was eliminated +1



Get to Know the 90th Class of National Finalists

Spellers by the Numbers

| Age | Total | Percent |
|-----|-------|---------|
| 6 | 1 | 0.3% |
| 8 | 1 | 0.3% |
| 9 | 2 | 0.7% |
| 10 | 16 | 5.5% |
| 11 | 35 | 12.0% |
| 12 | 50 | 17.2% |
| 13 | 99 | 34.0% |
| 14 | 84 | 28.9% |
| 15 | 3 | 1.0% |

| Grade | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Kindergarten | 1 | 0.3% |
| 3 | 2 | 0.7% |
| 4 | 8 | 2.7% |
| 5 | 27 | 9.3% |
| 6 | 46 | 15.8% |
| 7 | 83 | 28.5% |
| 8 | 124 | 42.6% |

| School Type | Total | Percent |
|-------------|-------|---------|
| Public | 191 | 65.6% |
| Private | 44 | 15.1% |
| Parochial | 24 | 8.2% |
| Home | 21 | 7.2% |
| Charter | 11 | 3.8% |

| Gender | Total | Percent |
|--------|-------|---------|
| Girls | 138 | 47% |
| Boys | 153 | 53% |

Number of spellers: 291


Family Statistics

33 spellers are only children.


138 have one sibling.

The remaining 120 spellers have 344 siblings combined.

13 spellers — spellers 17, 35, 87, 121, 126, 135, 206, 234, 242, 253, 271, 279 and 282 — have five siblings or more.



Speller 35 Z'Qi Chapman has six brothers and seven sisters.



Speller 242 Cassidy Crawford is the second of 10 children in her family.


15 spellers have a twin, and three of them — spellers 12, 67 and 279 — are identical.




Speller 176 Maggie Sheridan is a triplet.

Spelling in Their Blood


29 spellers have relatives who have participated in a combined 51 Scripps National Spelling Bees.



Lekshmi Nair, the mother of speller 75 Mira Dedhia, competed in 1988, 1989 and 1990.



Speller 3 Sharanya Pastapur's sister, Aishwarya, tied for second place in 2009.



Speller 281 Thomas York's father, Michael York, competed in 1982.



Speller 120 Jack Miller's sister, Kate, tied for eighth place in 2014.

Spell-peaters

Coming into this year, 73 spellers have previously competed in the Bee.

Four-Year Repeaters (3)

- 143 Tejas Muthusamy
- 173 Harshita Shet
- 207 Tara Singh

Three-Year Repeaters (14)

- 32 Ashwin Prasad
- 55 Sameera Hussain
- 59 Andrew Gould
- 62 Joel Miles
- 120 Jack Miller
- 128 Owen Kovalik
- 164 Sravanth Mall
- 168 Rebekah Ziegler
- 194 Charles Li
- 210 Naysa Modi
- 212 Kasey Torres
- 223 Kodai Speich
- 262 Martius Bautista
- 289 Lucinda Storz

Two-Year Repeaters (56)

- 5 Shaheer Imam
- 12 Sam Fettes
- 17 Hailey Jinkins
- 20 Vasundara Govindarajan

- 26 Melinda Buhlman
- 27 Rohan Sachdev
- 31 Haley Jeffers
- 36 Erin Howard
- 50 Michael Goss
- 53 Julian Connaughton
- 60 Anastasia Spahr
- 61 Briana Joseph
- 75 Mira Dedhia
- 77 Vanya Virmani
- 81 Anna Kleist
- 86 Leonardo Chen
- 89 Lucas Mooney
- 121 Charity-Dakota Jordan
- 132 Mary Elizabeth Vaughan
- 136 Grant Taylor
- 141 Storrie Kulynych-Irvin
- 142 Neil St. John
- 148 Liam Nyikos
- 157 Gabriel Ennin
- 167 Sreeniketh Vogoti
- 175 Neil Dave
- 180 Daniel Chen
- 182 Aditya Badlani
- 187 Saketh Sundar
- 189 Rutvik Gandhasri

- 197 Reese Perry
- 205 Siyona Mishra
- 209 Olivia Charles
- 211 Riley Hamp
- 215 Soyeon Park
- 224 Tien Nguyen
- 229 Ryan Rayos
- 233 Kael Miranda
- 239 Una VanWynsberghe
- 245 Jashun Paluru
- 249 Rishubh Kaushal
- 254 Shourav Dasari
- 258 Tyler Berndt
- 259 Alex Iyer
- 261 Deuce Ditton
- 263 Nick Sarji
- 264 Ananya Vinay
- 265 Catherine Chung
- 268 Eujine Kim
- 275 Samuel Paul
- 276 Akshra Paimagam
- 278 Shruthika Padhy
- 280 Srikar Chamarthi
- 285 Marin Gray
- 288 Aisha Randhawa
- 291 Marlene Schaff

Speller Favorites

Favorite Foods

- 1. Pizza
- 2. Pasta
- 3. Mexican/Tex Mex
- 4. Sushi

Favorite Sports

- 1. Soccer
- 2. Basketball
- 3. Tennis
- 4. Swimming
- 5. Football

Favorite Sports Figure

- 1. Michael Phelps
- 2. Simone Biles
- 3. Serena Williams

Favorite Novels

- 1. J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series
- 2. Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games trilogy
- 3. Rick Riordan's Heroes of Olympus series and Lois Lowry's *The Giver*

Favorite Movies

- 1. The Harry Potter series
- 2. The Star Wars series
- 3. *Akeelah and the Bee*, *Interstellar* and The Lord of the Rings series

Favorite Actor

- 1. Emma Watson
- 2. Harrison Ford
- 3. Matt Damon


Languages Spoken

English is not the first language of 71 spellers.


Overall, 126 spellers speak or study 38 languages other than English, including Bengali, Filipino, Mandarin, Ewe, Italian, German, Samoan, French, Hindi, Korean, Malayalam, Croatian, Norwegian, Laotian, Twi, Urdu, Vietnamese and American Sign Language.

Speller Highlights


This year's competitors are all great spellers, but that's not all they do! Here's a glimpse into the lives of some of the spellers.




Speller 49 Daniel Larsen
Daniel is the youngest *New York Times* crossword puzzle constructor ever. His puzzle appeared on February 14, 2017.




Speller 172 Zach Swyers
Zach has been in 4-H for six years, and this past summer he took 1st place in showmanship with his cow, Adirondack Midnight.




Speller 173 Harshita Shet
Harshita was nominated for a 2017 New York Emmy for her work on the documentary *What Happened to Black Wall Street?*




Speller 207 Tara Singh
Tara recently celebrated the 3rd anniversary of her blog, where she discusses interesting etymologies and chronicles her Bee Week adventures.




Speller 146 Calvin Alexander, Jr.
Cal has been in three Broadway touring shows: He played "Small Boy" in *Billy Elliot*, "Randy" in *A Christmas Story*, and "Nigel" in the first national tour of *Matilda the Musical*.




Speller 50 Michael Goss
Michael once won a steak dinner for accurately reciting all the U.S. presidents, vice presidents, and their party affiliations in chronological order.



Speller 247 Penda Ba
Penda attended the International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix last year. She loves architecture and hopes to create safe, innovative infrastructure one day.



Speller 249 Rishubh Kaushal
Rishubh loves flying. He has copilot a Cessna 182 and flown in a Blackhawk and a C-130, and he also regularly plans flight simulator events with his friends.



Speller 219 Jenia Marquez
Jenia has been studying ballet since she was three years old, and she has performed for several seasons with the American Ballet Theatre at the Metropolitan Opera.



Champions and Their Winning Words

1925: gladiolus
Frank Neuhauser
Louisville Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

1926: cerise
Pauline Bell
Louisville Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

1927: luxuriance
Dean Lucas
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1928: albumen
Betty Robinson
South Bend News-Tribune
South Bend, Indiana

1929: asceticism
Virginia Hogan
The Omaha World-Herald
Omaha, Nebraska

1930: fracas
Helen Jensen
Des Moines Register & Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

1931: foulard
Ward Randall
White Hall Register-Republican
White Hall, Illinois

1932: knack
Dorothy Greenwalk
Des Moines Register & Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

1933: torsion
Alma Roach
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1934: deteriorating
Sarah Wilson
Portland Evening Press
Portland, Maine

1935: intelligible
Clara Mohler
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1936: interning
Jean Trowbridge
Des Moines Register & Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

1937: promiscuous
Waneeta Beckley
Louisville Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

1938: sanitarium
Marian Richardson
Louisville Times
Louisville, Kentucky

1939: canonical
Elizabeth Ann Rice
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Worcester, Massachusetts

1940: therapy
Laurel Kuykendall
The Knoxville News Sentinel
Knoxville, Tennessee

1941: initials
Louis Edward Sissman
Detroit News
Detroit, Michigan

1942: sacrilegious
Richard Earnhart
El Paso Herald-Post
El Paso, Texas

1946: semaphore
John McKinney
Des Moines Register & Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

1947: chlorophyll
Mattie Lou Pollard
Atlanta Journal
Atlanta, Georgia

1948: psychiatry
Jean Chappellear
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1949: dulcimer
Kim Calvin
Canton Repository
Canton, Ohio

1950: meticulousity
Diana Reynard
Cleveland Press
Cleveland, Ohio

(1950 cont.)
and
Colquitt Dean
Atlanta Journal
Atlanta, Georgia

1951: insouciant
Irving Belz
Memphis Press Scimitar
Memphis, Tennessee

1952: vignette
Doris Ann Hall
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1953: soubrette
Elizabeth Hess
Arizona Republic
Phoenix, Arizona

1954: transept
William Cashore
Norristown Times Herald
Norristown, Pennsylvania

1955: crustaceology
Sandra Sloss
St. Louis Globe-Democrat
St. Louis, Missouri

1956: condominium
Melody Sachko
The Pittsburgh Press
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1957: schappe
Sandra Owen
Canton Repository
Canton, Ohio

and
Dana Bennett
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1958: syllepsis
Jolitta Schlehuber
Topeka Daily Capital
Topeka, Kansas

1959: catamaran
Joel Montgomery
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1960: eudaemonic
Henry Feldman
The Knoxville News Sentinel
Knoxville, Tennessee

1961: smaragdine
John Capehart
Tulsa Tribune
Tulsa, Oklahoma

1962: esquamulose
Nettie Crawford
El Paso Herald-Post
El Paso, Texas

and
Michael Day
St. Louis Globe-Democrat
St. Louis, Missouri

1963: equipage
Glen Van Slyke III
The Knoxville News Sentinel
Knoxville, Tennessee

1964: sycophant
William Kerek
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1965: eczema
Michael Kerpan, Jr.
Tulsa Tribune
Tulsa, Oklahoma

1966: ratoon
Robert A. Wake
Houston Chronicle
Houston, Texas

1967: Chihuahua
Jennifer Reinke
The Omaha World-Herald
Omaha, Nebraska

1968: abalone
Robert L. Walters
The Topeka Daily Capital
Topeka, Kansas

1969: interlocutory
Susan Yoachum
Dallas Morning News
Dallas, Texas

1970: croissant
Libby Childress
Winston-Salem Journal & Sentinel
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1971: shalloon
Jonathan Knisely
Philadelphia Bulletin
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1972: macerate
Robin Kral
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
Lubbock, Texas

1973: vouchsafe
Barrie Trinkle
Fort Worth Press
Fort Worth, Texas

1974: hydrophyte
Julie Anne Junkin
Birmingham Post-Herald
Birmingham, Alabama

1975: incisor
Hugh Tosteson
San Juan Star
San Juan, Puerto Rico

1976: narcolepsy
Tim Kneale
Syracuse Herald Journal-American
Syracuse, New York

1977: cambist
John Paola
The Pittsburgh Press
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1978: deification
Peg McCarthy
The Topeka Capital-Journal
Topeka, Kansas

1979: maculature
Katie Kerwin
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1980: elucubrate
Jacques Bailly
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1981: sarcophagus
Paige Pipkin
El Paso Herald-Post
El Paso, Texas

1982: psoriasis
Molly Dieveney
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1983: Purim
Blake Giddens
El Paso Herald-Post
El Paso, Texas

1984: luge
Daniel Greenblatt
Loudoun Times-Mirror
Leesburg, Virginia

1985: milieu
Balu Natarajan
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

1986: odontalgia
Jon Pennington
The Patriot News
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

1987: staphylococci
Stephanie Petit
The Pittsburgh Press
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1988: elegiacal
Rageshree Ramachandran
The Sacramento Bee
Sacramento, California

1989: spoliator
Scott Isaacs
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1990: fibranne
Amy Marie Dimak
The Seattle Times
Seattle, Washington

1991: antipyretic
Joanne Lagatta
The Wisconsin State Journal
Madison, Wisconsin

1992: lyceum
Amanda Goad
The Richmond News Leader
Richmond, Virginia

1993: kamikaze
Geoff Hooper
The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

1994: antediluvian
Ned G. Andrews
The Knoxville News Sentinel
Knoxville, Tennessee

1995: xanthosis
Justin Tyler Carroll
The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

1996: vivisepulture
Wendy Guey
The Palm Beach Post
West Palm Beach, Florida

1997: euonym
Rebecca Sealfon
Daily News
New York, New York

1998: chiaroscuroist
Jody-Anne Maxwell
Phillips & Phillips Stationery
Suppliers
Kingston, Jamaica

1999: logorrhea
Nupur Lala
The Tampa Tribune
Tampa, Florida

2000: demarche
George Abraham Thampy
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
St. Louis, Missouri

2001: succedaneum
Sean Conley
Aitkin Independent Age
Aitkin, Minnesota

2002: prospicience
Pratyush Buddiga
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

2003: pococurante
Sai R. Gunturi
The Dallas Morning News
Dallas, Texas

2004: autochthonous
David Scott Pilarski Tidmarsh
South Bend Tribune
South Bend, Indiana

2005: appoggiatura
Anurag Kashyap
San Diego Union-Tribune
San Diego, California

2006: Ursprache
Katharine Close
Asbury Park Press/Home News Tribune
Asbury Park, New Jersey

2007: serrefine
Evan M. O'Dorney
Contra Costa Times
Walnut Creek, California

2008: guerdon
Sameer Mishra
Journal and Courier
Lafayette, Indiana

2009: Laodicean
Kavya Shivashankar
The Olathe News
Olathe, Kansas

2010: stromuhr
Anamika Veeramani
The Plain Dealer
Cleveland, Ohio

2011: cymotrichous
Sukanya Roy
Times Leader
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

2012: guetapens
Snigdha Nandipati
U-T San Diego
San Diego, California

2013: knaidel
Arvind Mahankali
Daily News
New York, New York

2014: stichomythia
Sriram Hathwar
Corning Rotary Club
Corning, New York

and
feuilleton
Ansun Sujoe
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas

2015: scherenschnitte
Vanya Shivashankar
The Olathe News
Olathe, Kansas

and
nunatak
Gokul Venkatachalam
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
St. Louis, Missouri

2016: Feldenkrais
Jairam Hathwar
Corning Rotary Club
Corning, New York

and
gesellschaft
Nihar Janga
Houston Public Media
Houston, Texas



Celebrating 90 Years of the National Spelling Bee

The Scripps National Spelling Bee, administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company, is the nation's largest and longest-running educational program. This year, we are celebrating 90 years of improving students' spelling, vocabulary and English language usage. Since the first national spelling bee in 1925, our program has evolved into more than just a contest for children — it is a classic element of Americana.

Local spelling bee programs are administered by Bee-selected sponsors 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 is also administered in cooperation with local sponsors in six other countries: the Bahamas, Canada, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan and South Korea. This year's 291 spellers advanced through classroom, school and local spelling bees, making them the very best of the more than 11 million students who participated in the program this year.

NATIONAL SPELLING BEE TIMELINE

1925: *The Louisville Courier-News* organizes the first national spelling bee.

1930: NBC broadcasts the final hour of competition on the radio.

1940: The Bee moves from the Smithsonian's National Museum to the National Press Club.

1941: Scripps-Howard Newspapers takes over ownership of the program.

1943: The Bee takes a three-year hiatus during World War II.

1946: The Bee is first broadcast on television on NBC.

1948: Benson S. Alleman, director of forensics at Bellarmine College, becomes official pronouncer.

1950: After hours of head-to-head spelling, Colquitt Dean and Diana Reynard are declared the first co-champions.

1952: The 25th national spelling bee takes place in the U.S. Department of Commerce auditorium.

1961: Richard Baker, professor of philosophy at the University of Dayton, becomes official pronouncer.

1974: A taped version of the finals appears on PBS.

1975: Hugh Tosteson of Puerto Rico becomes first spelling bee champion from outside the 50 states.

1980: The Bee moves from the Mayflower Hotel to the Capital Hilton.

1981: Alex Cameron, professor of English at the University of Dayton, becomes official pronouncer.

1987: A record 185 participants forces Bee officials to eliminate the practice round of spelling.

1991: CNN provides live coverage of the finals.

1994: The Bee begins broadcast partnership with ESPN.

1996: The Bee moves from the Capital Hilton to the Grand Hyatt Washington.

1998: Jody-Anne Maxwell of Jamaica becomes first international speller to win the Bee.

1999: *Spellbound* documentary films the national spelling bee.

2002: The Bee implements a written test for the first time.

2003: Jacques Bailly, associate professor of classics at the University of Vermont, becomes official pronouncer.

2006: The championship finals air live in primetime on ABC.

2011: The Bee moves from the Grand Hyatt Washington to the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center.

2013: The Bee adds vocabulary to the written test.

2017: 5-year-old Edith Fuller becomes youngest to ever qualify for the national finals.

90 YEARS
The Bee is older than...



1956
Video tape recorders



1959
Barbie



1965
Gatorade

THE SPELLING BEE GOES TO THE WHITE HOUSE

Over the past 90 years, the White House has become the backdrop for some of our favorite memories.



1953
Bee champion Elizabeth Hess with President Dwight D. Eisenhower



1936
Spellers at White House



1953
Spellers with Vice President Richard Nixon



1974
Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon



1925
Nine original national finalists at White House



1983
Spellers with President Ronald Reagan



2014
Bee co-champs Sriram Hathwar and Ansun Sujoe with President Barack Obama



2004
Bee champ David Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

Spellers and Sponsors



1 Naomi Zarin of Gray, Maine, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Friends School of Portland. Her sponsor is *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram*.



2 Rayne T. Korsmo of Northwood, North Dakota, is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader at Greater Grand Forks Home School Association. His sponsor is the North Dakota Association of County Superintendents, Bismarck.



3 Sharanya E. Pastapur of Lake Zurich, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Lake Zurich Middle School North. Her sponsor is the Lake County Regional Office of Education, Grayslake.



4 Aashray Reddy Mandala of Grand Haven, Michigan, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Lakeshore Middle School. His sponsor is Kent Intermediate School District, Grand Rapids.



5 Shaheer Ali Imam of Catonsville, Maryland, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Al-Rahmah School. His sponsor is The Baltimore Bee.



6 William "Liam" N. Myers of Chilhowie, Virginia, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Marion Middle School. His sponsor is *The Roanoke Times*.



7 Dhruv Kaderu of Fishkill, New York, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Van Wyck Junior High School. His sponsor is the *Times Union*, Albany.



8 David Scot Firestone of Palm City, Florida, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Hidden Oaks Middle School. His sponsor is Hidden Oaks Middle School, Palm City.



9 Melodie D. Loya of Bainbridge, New York, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Sidney Area LEAH. Her sponsor is *The Daily Star*, Oneonta.



10 Grace Jones of New Carlisle, Indiana, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at New Prairie Middle School. Her sponsor is Kankakee Valley REMC, Wanatah.



11 Asha Chauhan of Elmwood Park, New Jersey, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Elmwood Park Memorial Middle School. Her sponsor is the Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs, Hackensack.



12 Sam Feters of West Tisbury, Massachusetts, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at West Tisbury School. His sponsor is *The Martha's Vineyard Times*, Vineyard Haven.



13 Simone D. Kaplan of Davie, Florida, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at St. Bonaventure Catholic School. Her sponsor is *The Miami Herald*.



14 Nikil V. Shyamsunder of Winchester, Virginia, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Powhatan School. His sponsor is the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Shenandoah Valley, Winchester.



15 Bethanya Yared of Stafford, Virginia, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at St. William of York Catholic School. Her sponsor is *The Free Lance-Star*, Fredericksburg.



16 Aditya Chezhiyan of Bristow, Virginia, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Marsteller Middle School. His sponsor is InsideNoVa/Prince William, Manassas.



17 Hailey R. Jenkins of Alexandria Bay, New York, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Alexandria Central High School. Her sponsor is the *Watertown Daily Times*.



18 Minh T. Nguyen of Gilberts, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at St. Charles Borromeo School. His sponsor is the Kane County Regional Office of Education, Geneva.



19 Lydia Pulsinelli of Knoxville, Tennessee, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at West Valley Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Knoxville News Sentinel*.



20 Vasundara Govindarajan of Miami, Florida, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Archimedean Middle Conservatory. Her sponsor is *The Miami Herald*.



21 Sakiusa Caveranakoula Meador of Marbleton, Wyoming, is an 8-year-old 3rd grader at Big Piney Elementary School. His sponsor is the Wyoming Community Foundation, Laramie.



22 Jason E. Sorin of Durham, North Carolina, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Triangle Day School. His sponsor is Duke University's Office of Durham and Regional Affairs.



23 Cecelia M. Fatta of Parkersburg, West Virginia, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Jackson Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Marietta Times*, Marietta, Ohio.



24 Erin Marie Welch of Princess Anne, Maryland, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at St. Francis de Sales Catholic School. Her sponsor is the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne.



25 Sohumi Mandar Sukhatankar of Allen, Texas, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Sloan Creek Intermediate School. His sponsor is the Dallas Sports Commission.



26 Melinda Buhlman of Heber, Utah, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Rocky Mountain Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Park Record*, Park City.



27 Rohan Sachdev of Cary, North Carolina, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Carnage Magnet Middle School. His sponsor is PAGE of Wake County, Raleigh.



28 Shantanu Shrirang Edgaonkar of Tokyo, Japan, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Global Indian International School. His sponsor is *The Japan Times*, Tokyo.



29 Tanay Nandan of Short Hills, New Jersey, is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Hartshorn Elementary School. His sponsor is Hartshorn Elementary School, Short Hills.



30 Matthew Delis of Sandy, Utah, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Summit Academy Independence. His sponsor is The City Journals, Salt Lake City.



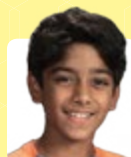
31 Haley Jeffers of Camarillo, California, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Las Colinas Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Ventura County Star*, Camarillo.



32 Ashwin V. Prasad of Carmel, Indiana, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Creekside Middle School. His sponsor is Williams Comfort Air, Carmel.



33 Ria Sai of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Mechanicsburg Middle School. Her sponsor is WITF: Public Media for Central Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.



34 Ishaan Pravara Akula of Morganville, New Jersey, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Frank Defino Central Elementary School. His sponsor is *Asbury Park Press/Home News Tribune*, Neptune.



35 Z'Qi Chapman of Christiansted, U.S. Virgin Islands, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Church of God (Holiness) Academy. His sponsor is *The Virgin Islands Daily News*, St. Thomas.



36 Erin Howard of Huntsville, Alabama, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Mountain Gap P-8 School. Her sponsor is Adventure Travel, Birmingham.



37 Varad Mulay of Novi, Michigan, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Novi Middle School. His sponsor is *The Oakland Press*, Pontiac.



38 Haley Elizabeth Payton of La Plata, Maryland, is a 14-year-old 7th grader at Milton M. Somers Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Maryland Independent*, Waldorf.



39 Marisa Langley of Tallahassee, Florida, is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader. Her sponsor is the *Tallahassee Democrat*.



40 Jamari Reeves of Crescent, Pennsylvania, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Moon Area Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



41 David Lye of Olathe, Kansas, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Sunnyside Elementary School. His sponsor is *The Olathe News*.



42 Stella Grace Motl of Port Lavaca, Texas, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School. Her sponsor is the *Victoria Advocate*.



43 Helena Thompson of Sanford, North Carolina, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Highland Middle School. Her sponsor is the Harnett County Spelling Bee Collaborative, Lillington.



44 Alyssa Faith Achate Dela Cruz of Dededo, Guam, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Saint Anthony Catholic School. Her sponsor is the *Pacific Daily News*, Hagåtña.



45 Vithul Ravivarma of Sammamish, Washington, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Beaver Lake Middle School. His sponsor is Town Hall Seattle.



46 Avril Andales Regis of Pago Pago, American Samoa, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Theresa Elementary School. Her sponsor is *Samoa News*, Pago Pago.



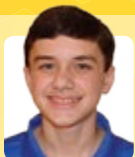
47 Seunga Hong of Gangnam-gu, South Korea, is a 13-year-old 6th grader at Eonju Elementary School. Her sponsor is Yoon's English School, Seoul.



48 Jake Blackburn of Decatur, Illinois, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Garfield Montessori School. His sponsor is Macon-Piatt Regional Office of Education, Decatur.



49 Daniel C. Larsen of Bloomington, Indiana, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Jackson Creek Middle School. His sponsor is Indiana University, Bloomington.



50 Michael Goss of Crowley, Louisiana, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at St. Michael Catholic School. His sponsor is the Kiwanis Club of Lafayette.



51 Aidan A. Veress of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Gardiner School. His sponsor is Lee Newspapers of Montana, Billings.



52 Jeremy John Slywczak of Kinsman, Ohio, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Joseph Badger Middle School. His sponsor is *The Tribune Chronicle*, Warren.



53 Julian Joseph Connaughton of Shohola, Pennsylvania, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Delaware Valley Middle School. His sponsor is the Tri-State Spelling Bee Committee, Montague, New Jersey.



54 Sam Stephens of Stevensville, Michigan, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Lakeshore Middle School. His sponsor is *The Herald Palladium*, St. Joseph.



55 Sameera N. Hussain of Porterville, California, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Sequoia Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register*.



56 Noah J. Brandt of Jackson, Tennessee, is a 14-year-old 7th grader at Augustine School. His sponsor is Union University, Jackson.



57 Cameron R. Apple of Paoli, Indiana, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Throop Elementary School. His sponsor is Orange County Publishing Co. Inc., Paoli.



58 Louise Julia Garcia Grimaldo of Orofino, Idaho, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Orofino Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Lewiston Tribune*.



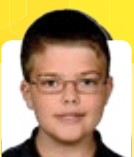
59 Andrew S. Gould of Weston, West Virginia, is a 15-year-old 8th grader at Robert L. Bland Middle School. His sponsor is *The Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram*.



60 Anastasia C. Spahr of Peru, Indiana, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Maconaquah Middle School. Her sponsor is Ivy Tech Community College, Kokomo.



61 Briana Joseph of Fairmont, Minnesota, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Fairmont Junior/Senior High School. Her sponsor is the South Central Service Cooperative, North Mankato.



62 Joel C. Miles of Greenwood, Missouri, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Raymore-Peculiar East Middle School. His sponsor is the Raymore-Peculiar School District.



63 Elizabeth A. Muganyizi of Wyncote, Pennsylvania, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Cedarbrook Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Philadelphia Tribune*.



64 Cierra J. Wilson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at McKinley Middle Academic Magnet. Her sponsor is the Louisiana Children's Discovery Center, Hammond.



65 Samhita Sandhya Kumar of Gold River, California, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Winston Churchill Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Sacramento Bee*.



66 Sheridan Hennessy of Cincinnati, Ohio, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Hyde Park School. Her sponsor is WCPO 9 On Your Side, Cincinnati.



67 Brandon Anderson of Mount Vernon, New York, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Amani Public Charter School. His sponsor is Amani Public Charter School, Mount Vernon.



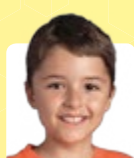
68 Shreeta P. Vachhani of Bourbonnais, Illinois, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center. Her sponsor is *The Daily Journal*, Kankakee.



69 Alexandria Gonzalo Ciurlino of Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at St. Vincent de Paul Regional School. Her sponsor is the South Jersey Spelling Bee, Folsom.



70 Chinmay H. Bapat of Audubon, Pennsylvania, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Skyview Upper Elementary School. His sponsor is the Pennridge Community Education Foundation, Perkasi.



71 Eric V. Gitson of Delaware, Ohio, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at David Smith Elementary School. His sponsor is Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication, Athens.



72 Zoe Grace Ward of Marion, Indiana, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Northview Elementary School. Her sponsor is Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion.



73 Hanna Ghouse of Kenosha, Wisconsin, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Kenosha School of Technology Enhanced Curriculum West. Her sponsor is the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.



74 Adith Joshua George of Sidney, Ohio, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Holy Angels Catholic School. His sponsor is *The Lima News*.



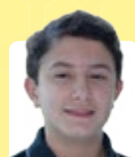
75 Mira Dedhia of Western Springs, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at McClure Junior High School. Her sponsor is Commonwealth Edison, Chicago.



76 Lawrence Fu of Surrey, British Columbia, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Berkshire Park Elementary School. His sponsor is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, Lower British Columbia.



77 Vanya Virmani of Fredericton, New Brunswick, is a 9-year-old 3rd grader at Park Street Elementary School. Her sponsor is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, Prince Edward Island & New Brunswick.



78 Ricardo Shawki Marrero-Alattar of Dorado, Puerto Rico, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Saint John's School. His sponsor is Eureka Enrichment & Learning Center, Inc., San Juan.



79 Emmanuel Santiago Rimocal of Laredo, Texas, is a 9-year-old 4th grader at Kennedy-Zapata Elementary School. His sponsor is the *Laredo Morning Times*.



80 Langley Vernon of Anderson, South Carolina, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Riverside Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Anderson Independent Mail*.



81 Anna Kleist of Prince Frederick, Maryland, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Plum Point Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Recorder*, Prince Frederick.



82 Will Lourcey of Fort Worth, Texas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Trinity Valley School. His sponsor is Texas Christian University, Fort Worth.



83 Isabelle Rose Stetka of Barto, Pennsylvania, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Boyertown Junior High West. Her sponsor is the *Reading Eagle*.



84 Lane Schnell of Centerville, Ohio, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Magsig Middle School. Her sponsor is the Dayton-Area Spelling Bee Collaborative.



85 Anna E. Cockfield of Petoskey, Michigan, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Petoskey Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.



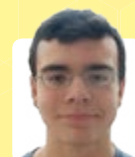
86 Leonardo Chen of Oroville, Washington, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Oroville Jr./Sr. High School. His sponsor is the North Central Washington Collaborative Spelling Bee, Wenatchee.



87 Grace Maxson of New Windsor, New York, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Cornwall Central Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Times Herald-Record*, Middletown.



88 Amelia Ballingall of Manchester, New Hampshire, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Nashua Catholic Regional Junior High School. Her sponsor is the *New Hampshire Union Leader*, Manchester.



89 Lucas Mooney of Charles Town, West Virginia, is a home-schooled 13-year-old 8th grader at St. James Homeschoolers. His sponsor is *The Journal*, Martinsburg.



90 Joseph Michael Benson of Kansas City, Missouri, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Antioch Middle School. His sponsor is the Kansas City Public Library.



91 Andrew M. Masciarelli of Bellaire, Ohio, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Bellaire Middle School. His sponsor is *The Times Leader*, Martins Ferry.



92 Riley E. Meese of New Philadelphia, Ohio, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Joseph Welty Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Repository*, Canton.



93 Arin Bhandari of West Haven, Connecticut, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at May V. Carrigan Intermediate School. His sponsor is the Noah Webster House West Hartford Historical Society, New Haven.



94 Delaney M. Williams of Boise, Idaho, is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Highlands Elementary School. Her sponsor is Boise State University.



95 Haris Javed Rana of Fort Smith, Arkansas, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Chaffin Junior High School. His sponsor is the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, Little Rock.



96 Annalee D. Johnson of California, Maryland, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Chesapeake Public Charter School. Her sponsor is *The Enterprise*, Lexington Park.



97 Jessica Rivera of Corpus Christi, Texas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Cunningham Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*.



98 Arsh C. Shah of Palm Harbor, Florida, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Ridgecrest Elementary School. His sponsor is Ridgecrest Elementary School, North Largo.



99 Brendan M. Pawlicki of Shelby Township, Michigan, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at St. Lawrence Catholic School. His sponsor is *The Macomb Daily*.



100 Daniel Joseph Healy of Port Byron, Illinois, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy. His sponsors are *The Dispatch* and *The Rock Island Argus*, Moline.



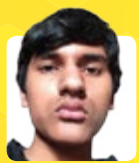
101 Jennifer Lau of Torrance, California, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Calle Mayor Middle School. Her sponsor is the Los Angeles Spelling Bee Collaborative.



102 Jacob Anthony Muin of Sedalia, Missouri, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Sedalia Middle School. His sponsor is the Sedalia Spelling Bee Collaborative.



103 Tina Huang of Tazewell, Virginia, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Tazewell Middle School. Her sponsor is Four Seasons YMCA, Tazewell.



104 Paarth Tara of Mebane, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Woodlawn Middle School. His sponsor is the *Times-News*, Burlington.



105 Thomas Kaufman of Yorkville, Illinois, is a 12-year-old 8th grader at Yorkville Middle School. His sponsor is the Grundy/Kendall County Regional Office of Education, Morris.



106 Kieran Ryan McKinney of West Salem, Wisconsin, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Coulee Christian School. His sponsor is the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.



107 Krutik Patel of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Rocky Mount Academy. His sponsor is the Delta Center for Life Development, Inc., Rocky Mount.



108 Haven Alexandra Griggs of Lawndale, North Carolina, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Burns Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Shelby Star*.



109 Paul Hamrick of Monterey, California, is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader. His sponsor is the Monterey County Office of Education, Salinas.



110 Kelly Han of Adelphi, Maryland, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Buck Lodge Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Washington Informer*, Washington, District of Columbia.



111 Sahil S. Langote of New Castle, Delaware, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at P.S. duPont Middle School. His sponsor is the Delaware Spelling Bee Collaborative, Wilmington.



112 Chad W. Saunders of Belmont, North Carolina, is a 15-year-old 8th grader at Gaston Day School. His sponsor is *The Gaston Gazette*, Gastonia.



113 Eleanor Grace Fournier of Canton, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Ingersoll Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Peoria Journal Star*.



114 Shrinidhi Gopal of San Ramon, California, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Gale Ranch Middle School. Her sponsor is the *East Bay Times*, Walnut Creek.



115 Winston Zuo of Yorba Linda, California, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Fairmont Private Schools: Historic Anaheim Campus. His sponsor is *The Orange County Register*, Santa Ana.



116 Kaitlin A. Ryan of Oldsmar, Florida, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Espiritu Santo Catholic School. Her sponsor is Espiritu Santo Catholic School, Safety Harbor.



117 Mia Ashriem of Brook Park, Ohio, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Middleburg Heights Junior High School. Her sponsor is *The Plain Dealer*/cleveland.com.



118 Haebin Han of Dubuque, Iowa, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Telegraph Herald*, Dubuque.



119 Rose Ming Xu Han of Staples, Minnesota, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Motley-Staples Middle School. Her sponsor is the National Joint Powers Alliance, Staples.



120 Jack Miller of Abilene, Texas, is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader at Big Country Home Educators. His sponsor is the *Abilene Reporter-News*.



121 Charity-Dakota Antoinette Jordan of La Conner, Washington, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at La Conner Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Skagit Valley Herald*, Mount Vernon.



122 Deneiro Jason Hines of Spanish Town, Jamaica, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Glenmuir High School. His sponsor is the *Jamaica Gleaner*, Kingston.



123 Hannah Fernandes of Omaha, Nebraska, is a 10-year-old 4th grader at St. Stephen the Martyr School. Her sponsor is the *Omaha World-Herald*.



124 Grace C. McKeegan of Steubenville, Ohio, is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader at Heart of Mary Home School. Her sponsor is *The Herald-Star*, Steubenville.



125 Peter Emmanuel Westbrook of Lawrence, Kansas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Bishop Seabury Academy. His sponsor is *The Topeka Capital-Journal*.



126 Serena Huberty of Lakewood, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Richard Bernotas Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Northwest Herald*, Crystal Lake.



127 Emma Liu of Frederick, Maryland, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Urbana Middle School. Her sponsor is Frederick County Public Libraries.



128 Owen Kovalik of Medina, Ohio, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Medina Christian Academy. His sponsor is the *Akron Beacon Journal*.



129 Sydney Aslan of Brentwood, Tennessee, is a home-schooled 14-year-old 8th grader. Her sponsor is the Tennessee Titans, Nashville.



130 Manjeet Surana Nirula of Silver Spring, Maryland, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Briggs Chaney Middle School. His sponsor is The Meakem Group, Bethesda.



131 Jaden M. Fellows of Chicago, Illinois, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at The Latin School of Chicago. His sponsor is the Chicago Spelling Bee Collaborative.



132 Mary Elizabeth A. Vaughan of Harrisonburg, Virginia, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Thomas Harrison Middle School. Her sponsor is Rockingham District Ruritans, Harrisonburg.



133 Josh Saylor of Eagle River, Alaska, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Mirror Lake Middle School. His sponsor is the *Alaska Dispatch News*, Anchorage.



134 Farah Raslan Haniff of Boston, Massachusetts, is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Winship Elementary School. His sponsor is Boston Centers for Youth & Families.



135 Mandy Marie Granz of Imlay City, Michigan, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Imlay City Middle School. Her sponsor is *The County Press*, Lapeer.



136 Grant Taylor of Lubbock, Texas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Lubbock Christian School. His sponsor is the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*.



137 Alia Abou Dakka of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at River Oaks Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Sun News*, Myrtle Beach.



138 Briandria Elaine Starks of Bakersfield, California, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Valley Oaks Charter School. Her sponsor is KERO 23 ABC, Bakersfield.



139 Macey Ann Stancato of Beloit, Ohio, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at West Branch Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Vindicator*, Youngstown.



140 Lydia Ann Bitterman of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a home-schooled 12-year-old 7th grader at Marion Homeschool Association. Her sponsor is Iowa State University, Greenlee School of Journalism & Communication, Ames.



141 Storrie Jamerson Kulynych-Irvin of Annapolis, Maryland, is a home-schooled 12-year-old 7th grader. Her sponsor is Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Annapolis.



142 Neil St. John of Bangor, Maine, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Bangor Christian School. His sponsor is Husson University, Bangor.



143 Tejas Muthusamy of Glen Allen, Virginia, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at George H. Moody Middle School. His sponsor is the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.



144 Joseph Moran of Hayden, Idaho, is a home-schooled 10-year-old 5th grader at North Idaho Home Educators Association. His sponsor is the *Coeur d'Alene Press*.



145 Sylvia Ngoc Nguyen of Saint Joseph, Missouri, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Oak Grove Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *St. Joseph News-Press*.



146 Calvin Alexander, Jr. of Shreveport, Louisiana, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Caddo Parish Middle Magnet School. His sponsor is Louisiana Tech University, Shreveport.



147 Adom Appiah of Spartanburg, South Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Spartanburg Day School. His sponsor is USC Upstate Foundation, Spartanburg.



148 Liam Nyikos of Carlsbad, New Mexico, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Carlsbad Intermediate School. His sponsor is the *El Paso Times*, Texas.



149 Siddhant Sharma of Downingtown, Pennsylvania, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Downingtown Middle School. His sponsor is the Chester County Intermediate Unit, Downingtown.



150 Ian Shasha of Jackson, Michigan, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Middle School at Parkside. His sponsor is *The Jackson Citizen Patriot*.



151 Maia Marshall of Las Vegas, Nevada, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School. Her sponsor is Greenspun Media Group, Las Vegas.



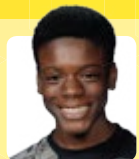
152 Phoebe V. Smith of Aston, Pennsylvania, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Northley Middle School. Her sponsor is the Delaware County Intermediate Unit, Morton.



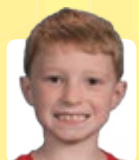
153 Casper L. Smith of Clayton, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Clayton Middle School. His sponsor is *The Clayton News-Star*.



154 Jeff Zheng of Amarillo, Texas, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Ascension Academy. His sponsor is the *Amarillo Globe-News*.



155 Nana K. Addo of North Sioux City, South Dakota, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Dakota Valley Middle School. His sponsor is the University of South Dakota, Vermillion.



156 Collin Shea of Mayfield, New York, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Mayfield Elementary School. His sponsor is *The Leader-Herald*, Gloversville.



157 Gabriel K. Ennin of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Pickerington Ridgeview Junior High School. His sponsor is the *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*.



158 Nathaniel Barnes of Wilson, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at James Lee School. His sponsor is *The Wilson Times*.



159 Jaden Zhang of Richmond, Ontario, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Westwind Public School. His sponsor is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, Greater Ottawa & Montreal.



160 Andrew C. Elias of Novelty, Ohio, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Westwood Elementary School. His sponsor is *The News-Herald*, Willoughby.



161 Aiden Jeffrey Arnett of Morgantown, West Virginia, is a 13-year-old 6th grader at Mountaineer Middle School. His sponsor is *The Dominion Post*, Morgantown.



162 Kelly Elise Mills of Beaver, West Virginia, is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader at Raleigh Educational Association of Christian Homeschoolers. Her sponsor is the *Charleston Gazette-Mail*.



163 Nikhil Lahiri of Painted Post, New York, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Alternative School for Math and Science. His sponsor is the Corning Rotary Club.



164 Sravanth Mohan Malla of Haverstraw, New York, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Fieldstone Middle School. His sponsor is Fieldstone Middle School, Thiells.



165 Ben Lenger of Niwot, Colorado, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Sunset Middle School. His sponsor is Barnes & Noble, Boulder.



166 Samuel J. Thomas of South Bend, Indiana, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Christ the King Catholic School. His sponsor is Christ the King Catholic School, South Bend.



167 Sreeniketh A. Vogoti of Saint Johns, Florida, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Fruit Cove Middle School. His sponsor is *The Florida Times-Union*, Jacksonville.



168 Rebekah Zeigler of Polo, Illinois, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Aplington Middle School. Her sponsor is Sauk Valley Media, Dixon.



169 Lindy G. Murphy of Ludington, Michigan, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Ludington Area Catholic School. Her sponsor is the *Ludington Daily News*.



170 Emelie M. Ojukwu of Lagrange, Ohio, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at First Baptist Christian School. His sponsor is the Educational Service Center of Lorain County, LaGrange.



171 Akilan Siva Sankaran of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Manzano Day School. His sponsor is *The Albuquerque Journal*.



172 Zach Swyers of Plattsburgh, New York, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Peru Jr./Sr. High School. His sponsor is the *Press-Republican*, Plattsburgh.



173 Harshita M. Shet of White Plains, New York, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Woodlands Middle School. Her sponsor is the Theodore D. Young Community Center, White Plains.



174 Ava Cloonan of Oswego, New York, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Oswego Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Palladium-Times*, Oswego.



175 Neil J. Dave of Lakeland, Florida, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Lakeland Christian School. His sponsor is the Polk County School District Collaborative, Bartow.



176 Maggie E. Sheridan of Mansfield, Ohio, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Lexington Junior High School. Her sponsor is Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication, Athens.



177 Folau Annie Holi of Fort Irwin, California, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Fort Irwin Middle School. Her sponsor is Fort Irwin Middle School.



178 Leela Waterford of Makawao, Hawaii, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Emmanuel Lutheran School. Her sponsor is Kama'aina Kids, Kailua.



179 Kendal T. Win of Fayetteville, North Carolina, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Pine Forest Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Fayetteville Observer*.



180 Daniel Chen of Chino Hills, California, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Loving Savior Lutheran School. His sponsor is Quest Literacy Consortium, Diamond Bar.



181 Yash Hande of San Diego, California, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Pacific Trails Middle School. His sponsor is *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.



182 Aditya Badlani of Oak Brook, Illinois, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Butler Junior High School. His sponsor is Commonwealth Edison, Chicago.



183 Cristina M. Pines of Vero Beach, Florida, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Saint Edward's School. Her sponsor is Saint Edward's School, Vero Beach.



184 Emily King of Steele, Missouri, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Cooter Elementary School. Her sponsor is Three Rivers Community College, Poplar Bluff.



185 Elizabeth A. Muller of Frisco, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Cape Hatteras Secondary School. Her sponsor is the *Washington Daily News*.



186 Theo Thompson-Armstrong of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Gorsebrook Junior High School. His sponsor is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, Nova Scotia.



187 Saketh Sundar of Elkridge, Maryland, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Mayfield Woods Middle School. His sponsor is Howard County Library, Columbia.



188 Surya G. Dodia of Naples, Florida, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at North Naples Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Naples Daily News*.



189 Rutvik Mohan Gandhasri of San Jose, California, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Chaboya Middle School. His sponsor is KPIX-TV & KCBS Radio AM & FM, San Francisco.



190 Vince Burton of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at MacDonald Drive Junior High School. His sponsor is *The Telegram*, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.



191 Alice Liu of Chesterfield, Missouri, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Wild Horse Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.



192 Ava Jane Propper of Warners, New York, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at West Genesee Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Post-Standard*, Syracuse.



193 Abby Richburg of Manning, South Carolina, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Manning Junior High School. Her sponsor is Pee Dee Education Center, Florence.



194 Charles Li of Martinez, Georgia, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Stallings Island Middle School. His sponsor is *The Augusta Chronicle*.



195 Akshansh Ajay Kumar of Kitchener, Ontario, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Doon Public School. His sponsor is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, Southwestern Ontario.



196 Anna-Livia L. Regan of Portland, Oregon, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at ACCESS Alternative Academy. Her sponsor is the *Portland Tribune*.



197 Reese Steven Perry of Evansville, Indiana, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Washington Middle School. His sponsor is the *Evansville Courier & Press*.



198 Reshmi Balakrishnan of Fairfax, Virginia, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Greenbriar West Elementary School. Her sponsor is the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, Merrifield.



199 Kelly L. Haven of Fort Defiance, Arizona, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Tsehootsooi Intermediate Learning Center. Her sponsor is the Navajo Times Publishing Company, Window Rock.



200 Raksheet Kota of Katy, Texas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Beckendorff Junior High School. His sponsor is Houston Public Media.



201 David A. De Coursy of Clearwater Beach, Florida, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at St. Paul's School. His sponsor is Saint Paul's School, Clearwater.



202 Margaret Isacson of Washington, District of Columbia, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Oyster-Adams Bilingual School. Her sponsor is *The Washington Informer*.



203 Kevin Fan of Plainfield, Illinois, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Heritage Grove Middle School. His sponsor is Commonwealth Edison, Chicago.



204 Faith Christine Baca of Aurora, Colorado, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning. Her sponsor is *The Denver Post*.



205 Siyona Mishra of Orlando, Florida, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Orlando Science Middle High School. Her sponsor is Orlando Sentinel Communications.



206 Silas L. Black of Wellsville, Ohio, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Southern Local Jr./Sr. High School. His sponsors are the *Salem News*, *East Liverpool Review* and *The Morning Journal*.



207 Tara Singh of Louisville, Kentucky, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Louisville Classical Academy. Her sponsor is the Louisville Spelling Bee Collaborative.



208 Shubhokkan Chakma of San Bernardino, California, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Richardson PREP HI Middle School. His sponsor is the San Bernardino Spelling Bee Collaborative.



209 Olivia R. Charles of Mt. Carroll, Illinois, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at West Carroll Middle School. Her sponsor is the Carroll/JoDavies/Stephenson Regional Office of Education, Freeport.



210 Naysa Modi of Monroe, Louisiana, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at River Oaks School. Her sponsor is *The News-Star*, Monroe.



211 Riley E. Hamp of Waynesboro, Virginia, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Kate Collins Middle School. Her sponsors are *The Daily Progress* and *News Virginian*, Charlottesville.



212 Kasey C. Torres of San Angelo, Texas, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Cornerstone Christian School. His sponsor is the *San Angelo Standard-Times*.



213 Nathan Ostermann of El Centro, California, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Sunflower Elementary School. His sponsor is the Imperial County Office of Education, El Centro.



214 Ashrita Gandhari of North Andover, Massachusetts, is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Franklin Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Daily Item*, Lynn.



215 Soyeon Park of Starkville, Mississippi, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Armstrong Middle School. Her sponsor is the Mississippi Association of Educators, Jackson.



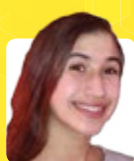
216 Abhiram Kapaganty of Suwanee, Georgia, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Burnette Elementary School. His sponsor is the Georgia Association of Educators, Tucker.



217 Ella Bay Espiritu of Brooklyn, New York, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at P.S./I.S. 104 The Fort Hamilton School. Her sponsor is the *Daily News*, New York.



218 Tanvi Rakesh of Florence, Kentucky, is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Longbranch Elementary School. Her sponsor is WCPO 9 On Your Side, Cincinnati, Ohio.



219 Sofia Jenia Marquez of New York, New York, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Hunter College High School. Her sponsor is the *Daily News*, New York.



220 Riya Joshi of Chicago, Illinois, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at South Loop Elementary School. Her sponsor is Chicago Public Schools.



221 Ryan Patrick Crawford of South Boston, Virginia, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Sacred Heart School. His sponsor is Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Danville.



222 Celine Genevieve Yap of Wichita Falls, Texas, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Christ Academy. Her sponsor is the *Times Record News*, Wichita Falls.



223 Kodai Speich of Rockford, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Thurgood Marshall School. His sponsor is the Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education, Loves Park.



224 Tien Thuy Nguyen of New Orleans, Louisiana, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Einstein Charter Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Times-Picayune*, New Orleans.



225 Srivatsav Vuppala of Perrysburg, Ohio, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Perrysburg Junior High School. His sponsor is *The Blade*, Toledo.



226 Shaurir Ramanujan of Overland Park, Kansas, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Harmony Middle School. His sponsor is the *Hays Daily News*.



227 Enya V. Hubers of Burlington, Ontario, is a home-schooled 11-year-old 6th grader. Her sponsor is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, Central Ontario & Greater Toronto.



228 Ainsley C. Boucher of Crookston, Minnesota, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Crookston High School. Her sponsor is the Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Fergus Falls.



229 Ryan J. Rayos of Naples, Italy, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Naples Middle High School. His sponsor is the European PTA, Defense and State Department Schools.



230 Joey A. Ilagan of Lexington, Kentucky, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Tates Creek Middle School. His sponsor is the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center, Lexington.



231 Christopher Serrao of Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Holland Brook School. His sponsor is Discover Lehigh Valley, Allentown, Pennsylvania.



232 Amelia Edelsberg of Providence, Rhode Island, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Lincoln School. Her sponsor is *The Valley Breeze*, Cumberland.



233 Kael Miranda of Columbia, Missouri, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at John B. Lange Middle School. His sponsor is *Columbia Daily Tribune*.



234 Daniel A. Doudna of Fairbanks, Alaska, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Interior Distance Education of Alaska. His sponsor is the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.



235 Rohan Rajeev of Edmond, Oklahoma, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Oklahoma Christian School. His sponsor is *The Oklahoman*, Oklahoma City.



236 Erik Dubbs of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Pine Grove Area Middle School. His sponsor is *The Republican Herald*, Pottsville.



237 Brent Earl A. Ebarle of Summerville, South Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Cane Bay Middle School. His sponsor is *The Post and Courier*, Charleston.



238 Lisa Lin of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Thrasher Elementary School. Her sponsor is *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.



239 Una VanWynsberghe of Van Wert, Ohio, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Lincolnview Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Journal Gazette*, Fort Wayne, Indiana.



240 Ethan G. Greenley of Franklin, North Carolina, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Macon G.E.M.S. His sponsor is Macon G.E.M.S., Franklin.



241 Will Rooke of Deephaven, Minnesota, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Minnetonka Middle School East. His sponsor is the Metropolitan Educational Cooperative Service Unit, Arden Hills.



242 Cassidy Crawford of Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Bear Creek Community Charter School. Her sponsor is the *Times Leader*, Wilkes-Barre.



243 Lily Ama Mawuena Tugbah of Accra, Ghana, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Solidarity International School. Her sponsor is the Young Educators Foundation, Accra.



244 Anmol Singh Bhatia of Greenbrook, New Jersey, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Green Brook Middle School. His sponsor is the Somerset County Library System, Bridgewater.



245 Jashun Paluru of West Lafayette, Indiana, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Battle Ground Middle School. His sponsor is Administrator Assistance, Brookston.



246 Gabrielle Brown of Salisbury, North Carolina, is a home-schooled 15-year-old 8th grader at Rowan County Homeschool Association. Her sponsor is the *Winston-Salem Journal*.



247 Penda M. Ba of Gilbert, Arizona, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Sossaman Middle School. Her sponsor is the Arizona Educational Foundation, Scottsdale.



248 Torah Smith of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, is a home-schooled 12-year-old 6th grader at C.H.E.C Homeschoolers. Her sponsor is the *Sentinel & Enterprise*, Fitchburg.



249 Rishubh Kaushal of Sterling, Virginia, is a 14-year-old 7th grader at Seneca Ridge Middle School. His sponsor is Loudoun County Public Schools, Leesburg.



250 Ishreet K. Lehal of Terre Haute, Indiana, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Honey Creek Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Tribune-Star*, Terre Haute.



251 Naomi I. Castellanos of North Bergen, New Jersey, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Franklin Elementary School. Her sponsor is the Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Jersey City.



252 Xuan K. Tran of Williamsburg, Virginia, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Queens Lake Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Virginian-Pilot*, Norfolk.



253 Dale Flanagan Winand of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Centerville Middle School. His sponsor is LNP Always Lancaster.



254 Shourav Dasari of Spring, Texas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at McCullough Junior High School. His sponsor is Houston Public Media.



255 Anika Reddy Gundlapalli of Odessa, Texas, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at St John's Episcopal School. Her sponsor is the Ector County Independent School District, Odessa.



256 Rishi Padmanabhan of Tampa, Florida, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Corbett Preparatory School of IDS. His sponsor is Corbett Preparatory School of IDS, Tampa.



257 Ryan P. Himmelsbach of East Setauket, New York, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Paul J. Gelinas Junior High School. His sponsor is Hofstra University, Hempstead.



258 Tyler Berndt of Jupiter, Florida, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at All Saints Catholic School. His sponsor is the Kiwanis Club of West Palm Beach.



259 Alex Iyer of San Antonio, Texas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Geneva School of Boerne. His sponsor is the *San Antonio Express-News*.



260 Melanie Mascorro of Brownsville, Texas, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Harmony Science Academy - Brownsville. Her sponsor is Rio Grande Valley AIM Media Texas, McAllen.



261 Deuce Ditton of Rolla, Missouri, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Rolla Junior High School. His sponsor is Rolla Junior High School.



262 Martius Isaac Bautista of Janesville, Wisconsin, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Edgewood Campus School. His sponsor is the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.



263 Nick Sarji of Tampa, Florida, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at South Tampa Independent Learning. His sponsor is South Tampa Independent School.



264 Ananya Vinay of Fresno, California, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Fugman Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Fresno Bee*.



265 Catherine Chung of Sejong-si, South Korea, is a 14-year-old 7th grader at Yangji Middle School. Her sponsor is Yoon's English School, Seoul.



266 Magnus A. Keswani of Sycamore, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at St. Mary's Catholic School. His sponsor is the *Daily Chronicle*, DeKalb.



267 Jessie Shaw of Burley, Idaho, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at White Pine Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Times-News*, Twin Falls.



268 Eujine Kim of Lynchburg, Virginia, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at P. L. Dunbar Middle School for Innovation. Her sponsor is *The News & Advance*, Lynchburg.



269 Charley B. Wiggins of Ontario, New York, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Thomas C. Armstrong Middle School. His sponsor is the *Finger Lakes Times*, Geneva.



270 Zachary Hoelscher of Lorena, Texas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Robinson Junior High School. His sponsor is Rapoport Holdings, LLC, Waco.



271 Jee'von Arden Pratt of Nassau, Bahamas, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at St. Augustine's College. His sponsor is *The Nassau Guardian*.



272 Nabil Arshad Zaman of Saginaw, Michigan, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy. His sponsor is the Saginaw County Spelling Bee.



273 Caleb R. Roberts of Muncie, Indiana, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Heritage Hall Christian School. His sponsor is Ball State University - WIPB-TV, Muncie.



274 Connor A. Lawrence of Keedysville, Maryland, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Boonsboro Middle School. His sponsor is *The Herald-Mail*, Hagerstown.



275 Samuel T. Paul of Collierville, Tennessee, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Memphis University School. His sponsor is *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis.



276 Akshra P. Paimagam of Charlotte, North Carolina, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Randolph Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Charlotte Observer*.



277 Luca Varanelli of Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Parcels Middle School. His sponsor is WXYZ Channel 7, Detroit.



278 Shruthika Padhy of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Rosa International Middle School. Her sponsor is Rosa International Middle School, Cherry Hill.



279 Garrett Bryner of Price, Utah, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Mont Harmon Middle School. His sponsor is the Southeast Education Service Center, Price.



280 Srikar Varma Chamarthi of Odessa, Texas, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Abell Junior High School. His sponsor is the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*.



281 Thomas York of Rochester, Minnesota, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Francis of Assisi School. His sponsor is the Southeast Service Cooperative, Rochester.



282 Elizabeth DaLynn Tittington of Kansas City, Missouri, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Congress Middle School. Her sponsor is Congress Middle School, Kansas City.



283 Christopher James Kiekhaefer of Barbeau, Michigan, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at St. Mary's Elementary School. His sponsor is the Upper Peninsula Spelling Bee Collaborative, Iron Mountain.



284 Devesh Shah of Wheeling, West Virginia, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at The Linsly School. His sponsor is the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.



285 Marin E. Gray of Roseburg, Oregon, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Joseph Lane Middle School. Her sponsor is Joseph Lane Middle School, Roseburg.



286 Meryl S. Tigenoah of Baxter, Minnesota, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Forestview Middle School. Her sponsor is the National Joint Powers Alliance, Staples.



287 Nicholas Ivan of Carmel, Indiana, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Sycamore School. His sponsor is Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.



288 Aisha Randhawa of Corona, California, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Garretson Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Press-Enterprise*, Riverside.



289 Lucinda Maybelle Storz of Lyndonville, Vermont, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Thaddeus Stevens School. Her sponsor is the *Rutland Herald/Barre Times-Argus*.



290 Edith Fuller of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a home-schooled 6-year-old kindergartner at T.B.C. Home Educators Fellowship. Her sponsor is KJRH-TV, Tulsa.



291 Marlene M. Schaff of Lake Forest, Illinois, is a home-schooled 14-year-old 8th grader at Schaff Family Homeschool. Her sponsor is Schaff Family Homeschool, Lake Forest.

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 34 years, including 20 years as executive director.



Corrie Loeffler
Director, Editorial

Corrie is serving her 11th 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.



Cybelle Weeks
Program Manager, Operations

Cybelle works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her 20th year on the Bee team.



Beth Hecquet
Program Manager, Events

Beth works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her third year on the Bee team.



Nicole Dittoe
Local Sponsorship Manager

Nicole works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her seventh year on the Bee team.



Darryl Porter
Lead Business Analyst

Darryl works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is his fourth year on the Bee team.



Justin Nethers
Lead Business Analyst

Justin works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is his second year on the Bee team.



Laurie Morris
Editorial Specialist

Laurie works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her fifth year on the Bee team.



Tyler Hyde
Communications Specialist

Tyler works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her third year on the Bee team.



Maggie Nobes Sears
Editorial Coordinator

Maggie works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her third year on the Bee team.



Molly Duerré
Editorial Coordinator

Molly works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her second year on the Bee team.



Brittney Santiago
Administrative Assistant

Brittney works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her second year on the Bee team.



The E.W. Scripps Company

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



Lisa Knutson
Lisa is senior vice president and chief administrative office of The E.W. Scripps Company.

Officials and College Crew

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 15th 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 parishes in Lansing and Marquette, 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 15th 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 46 years, including 30 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 17th 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 25th year as a judge. He has also served as the Head Judge for the Colorado State Spelling Bee for 27 years.



George Thampy
Judge

Mr. Thampy is the 2000 national champion, representing the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. He is a second-year MBA student at the Stanford Graduate School of Business in Palo Alto, California. This is Mr. Thampy's sixth year as judge after having served six years on staff.

College Crew



Liza Buck
College Crew

Liza is an undergraduate student at Husson University in Bangor, Maine.



Clay Campbell
College Crew

Clay is an undergraduate student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He represented WCPO 9 On Your Side in the 2011 national finals.



Matthew Cecil
College Crew

Matthew is an undergraduate student at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio. He represented the Educational Service Center of Lorain County in the 2011 national finals.



Jerry Cortez
College Crew

Jerry is an undergraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, in Berkeley, California. He represented Los Angeles in the 2010 national finals.



Gabe DeFreitas
College Crew

Gabe is an undergraduate student at Columbia University in New York City, New York. He represented *The Blade* in the 2011 national finals.



Jacob Elser
College Crew

Jacob is an undergraduate student at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He represented the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* in the 2011 national finals.



Samuel Haynes
College Crew

Samuel is an undergraduate student at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois.



Jordan Hoffman
College Crew

Jordan is an undergraduate student at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. She represented *The Examiner* in the 2010 and 2011 national finals, and the Jackson County Spelling Bee Collaborative in 2012.



Julia Koltas
College Crew

Julia is an undergraduate student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Maggie Murphy
College Crew

Maggie is an undergraduate student at SUNY Purchase College in Westchester, New York.



Rob Palmisano
College Crew

Rob is an undergraduate student at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He represented Learn It Systems in the 2010 and 2011 national finals.



Sukanya Roy
College Crew

Sukanya is an undergraduate student at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. She is the 2011 national champion, representing the *Times Leader* in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.



Madisyn Steinberg
College Crew

Madisyn is an undergraduate student at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware.



Joanna Ye
College Crew

Joanna is an undergraduate student at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She represented WITF: Public Media for Central Pennsylvania in the 2010 and 2011 national finals.

Bee Week Staff



Jamal Andress
Photographer

Jamal is a reporter and producer for Newsy in Chicago, Illinois.



Mark Bowen
Photographer

Mark is a professional free-lance photographer and visual content provider with Mark Bowen Media in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Bryan Brandeberry
Production Staff

Bryan is a network security analyst for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Amanda Daniels
Production Staff

Amanda is a creative coordinator for The E.W. Scripps Company in Portland, Oregon.



Mike Epstein
Production Staff

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



Rich Estok
Production Staff

Rich is a senior manager of desktop support for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Tom Fox
Production Staff

Tom is a lead database administrator 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 director of application development for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Kristin Hawkins
Production Staff

Kristin graduated from the University of Virginia in 2009 and now works in Pakistan. Kristin represented the *Loudoun Times-Mirror* in the 1999, 2000 and 2001 national finals, placing second in 2001.



Clinton Hess
Production Staff

Clinton is director of IT planning and analysis for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Robyn Hildal
Media Desk Manager

Robyn is vice president of talent and diversity 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 a partner at ColorNine, a marketing consultancy with offices in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Charlotte, North Carolina.



Mike Klawitter
Production Staff

Mike is director of business applications for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Vagelis "V" Kontopos
Production Staff

V is a senior director of compensation and health and welfare benefits for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Sathya Kothandram
Production Staff

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



Randy Leach
Production Staff

Randy is a lead network engineer for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Chip Mahaney
Production Staff

Chip is news director at WCPO-TV, The E.W. Scripps Company's flagship station 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 manager of external communications for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Sameer Mishra
Production Staff

Sameer is an investment banking analyst at Morgan Stanley. He is the 2008 national champion, representing the *Journal and Courier* in Lafayette, Indiana.



Kevin Moch
Production Staff

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



Linda Morgan
Production Staff

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



Bret G. Nealis
Production Staff

Bret is a software engineer for CinApps, Inc., in Mason, Ohio.



Bridget Nealis
Production Staff

Bridget is an associate wealth management advisor for Northwestern Mutual in West Chester, Ohio.



Malorie Nealis
Production Staff

Malorie Nealis works on the campus field staff for Cru at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.



Brett Pappas
Production Staff

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



Jon Reischel
Production Staff

Jon is a partner at ColorNine, a marketing consultancy with offices in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Charlotte, North Carolina.



Paul Riccobene
Production Staff

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



Rebecca Riegelsberger
Production Staff

Rebecca is vice president of tax for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Brian Schermerhorn
Production Staff

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



Mario Sevilla
Production Staff

Mario is digital director for KGTV in San Diego, California.



Kavya Shivashankar
Production Staff

Kavya recently graduated from Columbia University. She is the 2009 national champion, representing the *Olathe News* in Olathe, Kansas.



Alyssa Smith
Production Staff

Alyssa is senior director of digital UI/UX for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Ryan Smyth
Production Staff

Ryan is a senior manager of digital sales strategy 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.



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* in Fort Worth, Texas.



Jeremy Wejroch
Production Staff

Jeremy is a lead database administrator for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Kari Wethington
Production Staff

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



Kim Wildenmann
Production Staff

Kim is digital promotions and contesting manager for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Kirsty Winner
Production Staff

Kirsty is internal communications manager for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Pam Wise
Production Staff

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



Danyelle Wright
Production Staff

Danyelle is the employment attorney for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Alison Young
Production Staff

Alison is a senior director in accounting for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

About Scripps

The E.W. Scripps Company (NYSE: SSP) serves audiences and businesses through a growing portfolio of television, radio and digital media brands. Scripps is one of the nation's largest independent TV station owners, with 33 television stations in 24 markets and a reach of nearly one in five U.S. households. It also owns 34 radio stations in eight markets. Scripps also runs an expanding collection of local and national digital journalism and information businesses, including multi-platform satire and humor brand Cracked, podcast industry leader Midroll Media and over-the-top video news service Newsy. Scripps also produces television shows including "The List" and "The Now," 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. Founded in 1878, Scripps has held for decades to the motto, "Give light and the people will find their own way."

The Bee's 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.

Scripps National Spelling Bee

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Speller & Sponsor Desk during Bee Week: 301-965-5570



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