



### Why is the Scripps National Spelling Bee offering this program?

The national finals is a special experience for spellers and their families, not just for the top-notch competition, but for personal growth and building lifelong memories. The Scripps National Spelling Bee constantly explores ways to grow our program and expose more children to opportunities for learning. RSVBee is a chance for more students who have earned champion status to experience all the wonderment of Bee Week.

### Who can apply?

The Scripps National Spelling Bee welcomes applications from parents of students attending a school in the United States that is currently enrolled in the Bee program. To be eligible, students must be a school or community spelling champion during the 2018-19 school year or be a former participant in the national finals (this includes all students who traveled to Bee Week to compete — not just spellers who made it to the Thursday Finals). Parents of interested students must complete the full application. If invited, based on the successful completion of the eligibility requirements, the student's family pays the participation fee and is responsible for coordinating and paying all travel to/from National Harbor, Maryland, the location of the national finals, as well as accommodations.

### Can I apply for my child if my school is not enrolled?

Enrollment in the Bee program is a requirement to be eligible for RSVBee.

### Can I apply for my home-schooled child?

Yes, if your child is the current (2018-2019 school year) declared champion of your home school spelling bee program and if your home school is enrolled in the Bee program.

### How do parents apply for their children to be considered?

Go to [spellingbee.com/rsvbee](http://spellingbee.com/rsvbee) and answer all the information requested. There is a non-refundable \$20 fee to submit a completed application. As spellers receive their RSVBee invitations, parents can accept the invitation by paying the \$1,500 participation fee.

### What is the application deadline?

The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on March 24, 2019. There is no preference given to applicants based on time or date of application.

### What if I apply for my child and then he/she wins the local regional bee – the one in my community that determines who gets a sponsored trip to the national finals?

Applying for RSVBee does not exclude your child from competing in a regional bee competition. If your child wins the regional bee, you may Contact Us to request withdrawal of your application. The non-refundable \$20 application fee is not refundable.

### How will the Scripps National Spelling Bee determine which applicants to invite?

The Bee will send electronic invitations on a staggered basis according to each applicant's previous participation or grade level:

- March 25 — students who previously competed in the Thursday portion of the national finals
- March 26 — students who previously competed in the Tuesday and/or Wednesday portion of the national finals
- March 27 — eighth graders
- March 28 — seventh graders
- March 29 — sixth graders and younger

Invitation recipients will have until April 1, or until all available RSVBee spots are filled — whichever comes first — to accept the invitation.

Unlike the inaugural year, in RSVBee's second year, there is no point system for applicants to track and no advantage by submitting the application weeks or months before the deadline.

For additional details and requirements, visit [spellingbee.com/rsvbee](http://spellingbee.com/rsvbee).

### If selected, what is the fee? When do I pay?

Upon the delivery of an official invitation to participate, the speller's family can accept the invitation and submit the \$1,500 participation fee before all RSVBee slots are filled or by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on April 1, whichever comes first.

### What does the participation fee cover?

The participation fee is for resources utilized in the administration of Bee Week and the national finals competition. In addition, an applicant and his or her parents receive the following benefits:

- Two (2) tickets to the Bee Week Kickoff Party (one for the speller, one for a parent/guardian)
- Two (2) tickets to the Bee's Awards Banquet (one for the speller, one for a parent/guardian)
- Bee-issued name badges for the speller and his or her family members attending Bee Week
- One (1) autograph collection souvenir for spellers
- Access to the 2019 Bee Week app for the speller and his or her family members attending Bee Week
- Two (2) special edition 2019 speller T-shirts
- Online access to the 2019 Round Two Study Guide and 2019 Round Two Study Tool
- Up to three (3) tickets to attend the primetime Finals of the 2019 Scripps National Spelling Bee

### Is there flexibility in arranging travel and hotel? Can RSVBee families choose travel and lodging that best meets their family needs?

Parents can choose the best mode of transportation to get to and from National Harbor, Maryland. All transportation and lodging costs are the responsibility of parents and are not included in the \$1,500 participation fee. During registration, parents will reserve their room for six nights at Gaylord National Resort, the Bee's official hotel. If they decide to stay at a different hotel, there is an additional \$600 non-participation fee that parents must pay before May 26, 2019.

### Is it okay to fundraise to cover the costs of the participation fee and Bee Week travel expenses?

You may ask individuals and organizations to sponsor you but doing so is not a requirement. Fundraising is the sole responsibility of RSVBee spellers' families.

### Are there additional expenses for those attending Bee Week through RSVBee?

Families will be responsible for covering all travel costs, lodging, meals (outside of meals for the speller and one parent/guardian during the Bee Week Kickoff Party and Awards Banquet) and any incidentals. Families can purchase additional tickets for other family members to attend events such as the Bee Week Kickoff Party and the Awards Banquet.

### Will the experience during Bee Week differ for those who win a regional bee and those who are invited through RSVBee?

The experience offered to RSVBee spellers and spellers who win their regional bees will be the same.

### How will the Scripps National Spelling Bee schedule the onstage spelling rounds during Bee Week?

The schedule for the Preliminaries (Round One Test as well as Rounds Two and Three onstage) will be announced in early April. The rules for advancing to the Thursday Finals will not change from the 2018 national finals. Students will earn points through a multiple-choice test and through the onstage spelling in Round 2 and Round 3 to earn a Preliminaries score. The scores will determine no more than 50 spellers to advance to the Finals.

### Will the number of students who advance to the Thursday Finals change?

This rule remains consistent with the 2018 national finals. No more than 50 spellers will advance to the Finals.