CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

2017 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

BEE WEEK GUIDE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition Schedule</th>
<th>Preliminaries Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All spellers will participate in this multiple choice test.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.

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

**Team Champion**
Chandler, Arizona
Champion Chandler Charter School and Kyrene Traditional Academy

**The Fab Four**
Cedar Park, Texas
Westside Elementary School

---

1927
Sliced bread

1928
Bubble gum

1929
Sunglasses

1937
Sliced bread

1957
Spellers with Ed Sullivan

2014
Spellers with Jimmy Kimmel

---

90 YEARS

The Bee is older than...
**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 progressed 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 week/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 January 1, 2017, and April 30, 2017.
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 or portion of the word, the speller who misspells the word in the correct order will be declared the winner. If one or more spellers spell 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 does not misspell the anticipated winning word in a one-word round, a new round begins with all the spellers who spelled correctly and incorrectly in the previous round. These spellers spell in their original order.

Rule 4: Official Dictionary and Source of Words
Merriam-Webster Unabridged, available at http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com, is the final authority and sole source of definitions, pronunciations, language origins for the Bee; and provides the spellers the lists a specific root word as the root of the word to be spelled, the judges feel that the pronouncer's pronunciation does not match the pronunciation specified in the diacritical markings. The judges will direct the speller 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 nonsensene words.

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 (2) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation; (2) the pronouncer provides incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, 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.

Rule 8: Judges' Role
The judges states clearly, 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.

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.
PRELIMINARIES

**Preliminaries Test**
Tuesday morning, May 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>12 words</th>
<th>1 point each</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round 1</td>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>12 words</td>
<td>1 point each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronds 2 and 3</td>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>1 word per</td>
<td>3 points each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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

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.
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 a á ç ñ that you see in a dictionary. If he didn’t pronounce it the way you expected it to be pronounced, it’s because your pronunciation wasn’t in the dictionary, and the pronouncer is bound by the rules to pronounce only what is listed in the dictionary. It’s also important to note that the legion of Bee officials in the front of the ballroom closely listen to Dr. Bailly and immediately alert him to make an on-the-spot correction in the event of an error.

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.
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 add to 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preliminaries Score</th>
<th>Number of Spellers Achieving This Score</th>
<th>Cumulative Number of Spellers at or Above This Scoring Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Spelling by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

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

Speller 3 Shrutanya Pastapur’s sister, Ashwarya, tied for second place in 2009.

Speller 395 Charlie Miller’s sister, Kate, tied for eighth place in 2014.

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, Ladish, Twi, Urdu, Vietnamese and American Sign Language.

Get to Know the 90th Class of National Finalists

Speller Favorites

Favorite Foods
1. Pasta
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. Alfred Hitchcock and The Bee

Favorite Actor
1. Emma Watson
2. Harrison Ford
3. Matt Damon

Favorite Musician
1. Taylor Swift
2. Adele and Lorde
3. Michael Jackson
4. Ed Sheeran and Pentatonix

Favorite Subject
1. Math
2. Science
3. English and Language Arts
4. History

Favorite T.V. Shows
1. Shark Tank
2. Mythbusters
3. Sherlock
4. The Flash

Hope to Attend
1. Harvard
2. Stanford
3. M.I.T.
4. Yale

Hope to Attend
1. Harvard
2. Stanford
3. M.I.T.
4. Yale

Speller Highlights

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

Speller 49 Daniel Larsen

Speller 172 Zach Severs
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 Weekend adventures.

Speller 146 Calvin Alexander, Jr.
Cal has been in Wise 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 43 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 Rishabh Kaushal
Rishabh loves flying. He built 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 Jelia Marquez
Jelia 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.
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 Heynard 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.


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 Bally, 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.

1956: Video tape recorders

1959: Barbie

1965: Gatorade

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1953: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1993: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finalists at White House

1936: Spellers at White House

1953: Bee champion Elizabeth Hoxie with President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1956: Spellers at White House

1974: Spellers with First Lady Pat Nixon

1983: Spellers with President Ronald Reagan

2004: Bee champ Daniel Tidmarsh with President George W. Bush

2014: Bee co-champs Sharan Nathwani and Aniyan Sujoe with President Barack Obama

2011: Nine original national finalists at White House

1925: Nine original national finals...
**Prizes**

**For the Champion**
- From Scraps: a $40,000 cash prize and Scraps National Spelling Bee engraved trophy
- From Merriam-Webster: a $2,500 U.S. savings bond and a complete reference library
- From Encyclopaedia Britannica: $400 of reference works including a 1768 Encyclopaedia Britannica Replica Set Deluxe Edition and a three-year membership to Britannica Online Premium

PLUS: a trip to New York City for the Champion to appear on Live with Kelly and Ryan which airs weekday mornings in national syndication, a trip to Hollywood for the Champion to appear on ABC’s Jimmy Kimmel Live! which airs weeknights at 11:35:10:35:30 (pending availability).

**For the Champion’s School and Sponsor**
- From Scraps: Scraps National Spelling Bee engraved plaques

---

**For the Finalists**

A meal from the Scraps National Spelling Bee
- $500 gift card
- Misprint in Round 4 through 6: $2,000
- Misprint in Round 7 through 7th Place: $2,000
- 6th Place: $2,500
- 5th Place: $5,000
- 4th Place: $10,000
- 3rd Place: $20,000
- 2nd Place: $30,000

---

**For All Spellers**

From Kindle: a Kindle Paperwhite

From Merriam-Webster: a one-year subscription to Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online

From Mr. Jay Sugarman:
- Webster Unabridged Online
- From Merriam-Webster: 2013 Dictionary Print Edition

From Scripps:
- The Spelling Bee Quest Literacy Office of Education, Monterey County

---

Spellers who are eliminated from the competition in the same round are eliminated from the competition. If a speller declines Co-Championship, each Co-Champion will receive a $40,000 first place check each.
Spellers and Sponsors

1 Naomi Zarín 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 Raymond Kornomo of Northwood, North Dakota, is a home-schooled 13-year-old 7th grader at Great Grand Forks Home School Association. His sponsor is the North Dakota Association of Count Superintendents, Bismarck.

3 Sharanya E. Pastapur of St. Xavier Catholic School, Chicago, 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 William “Liam” N. Myers of Chilhowie, Virginia, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Altavista Middle School. His sponsor is The Roanoke Times.

5 Shaheer Ali Imam of Kenilworth, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Appalachian Central High School. His sponsor is the Kane County Regional Office of Education, Geneva.

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 Goyal 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. Her sponsor is Hidden Oaks Middle School, Palm City.

9 Melodie D. Loya of Btainbridge, New York, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at St. Francis de Sales Catholic School. Her sponsor is The Daily Star, Oneonta.

10 Grace Jones of New Carlisle, Indiana, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Hartshorn Elementary School. Her sponsor is the Knox County Regional Office of Education, Knoxville.

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

12 Sam Felters 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. Bernard School. His sponsor is The Miami Herald.

14 Nikul V. Shyamsunder of New York, New York, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at PS807. His sponsor is the Boys & Girls Club of Northern New York.

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 Aditiya Chezhiyan of Bristow, Virginia, is a 14-year-old 7th grader at Marsterdale Middle School. His sponsor is InsideNoVa/Prince William, Manassas.

17 Halley R. Jinkins of Alexandria Bay, New York, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Watertown Daily Times.

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

19 Lydia Pulvino of Asheville, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Lake Park Middle School. Her sponsor is the Asheville Citizen-Times, Asheville.

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

21 Sakuls Caveranakoula of Mariborough, Virginia, is an 8-year-old 3rd grader at Big Piney Elementary School. His sponsor is the Wisconsin Community Foundation, Laramie.

22 Jason E. Sorin of Durham, North Carolina, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Aukebay Creek School. His sponsor is Duke University’s Office of Durham & Regional Affairs.

23 Cecelia M. Fatta of Albertville, Alabama, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Summit Academy Independence. Her sponsor is Triangle Day School. His sponsor is Duke University’s Office of Durham & Regional Affairs.

24 Erin Marie Welch of Port Lavaca, Texas, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Smith Middle School. Her sponsor is the White House.

25 Sohum Mandal of Rapidan, Texas, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Kasmier High School. Her sponsor is the Dallas Morning News.

26 Melinda Buhman 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 16-year-old 8th grader at Caroyne Magnet Middle School. Her sponsor is PACE of Wake County, Raleigh.

28 Shantanu Shringar Edgonkar 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 Triangle Day School. His sponsor is Duke University’s Office of Durham & Regional Affairs.

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

32 Ashwin V. Prasad of Carmel, Indiana, is a 14-year-old 7th grader at Creekside Middle School. Her 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 Ishan Pravat Akula of Morgantown, New Jersey, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Frank Defino Central Elementary School. Her 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. Her sponsor is Oakland Press, Pontiac.

38 Haley Elizabeth Payton of La Plata, Maryland, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Benjamin Holt School. Her sponsor is the Washington Post.

39 Marisa Langley of Grand Haven, Michigan, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Port Huron Northern High School. Her sponsor is the San Diego Union-Tribune.

40 Laini Reeves of Crestview, Pennsylvania, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Evanston Township High School. Her sponsor is the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

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

42 Stella Grace Motl of Powhatan, Virginia, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School. Her sponsor is the Virginia Advocate.

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

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

45 Vithal Ravimara of Sammanah, Washington, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Beaver Lake Middle School. Her 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 the Samoa News, Pago Pago.

47 Seungja Hong of Gangnam-gu, South Korea, is a 13-year-old 6th grader at Eonju Elementary School. His sponsor is English School, Seoul.

48 Jake Blackburn of Decatur, Illinois, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Garfield Montessori School. His sponsor is Macon- Putnam Education Services, 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 Aiden A. Veress of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at St. Anthony Catholic School. His sponsor is Lee Newspapers of Montana, Billings.

52 Jeremy John Szymczak 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 Connbaugh 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 Lakeside Middle School. His sponsor is The Herald Dispatch, St. Joseph.

55 Samira N. Hussain of Porterville, California, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Sequoia Middle School. Her sponsor is the Vidalis Times-Delco Talure Advance, Burlington, Vermont.

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

57 Cameron R. Apple of Paoli, Indiana, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Tesla 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. Sparr of Peru, Indiana, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Macoupin Middle School. Her sponsor is Ivy Tech Community College, Elkhart.

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. Mughan of Wynne, Arkansas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Casketbrook 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 Sanmihata Sandhya Kumar of Gold River, California, is an 11-year-old 7th grader at Kennedy School of Technology. Her sponsor is Sacramento State Journals, Madison.

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 Gonzalez Clarino of Elgin 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, Felton.

70 Chimmy H. Bapat of Audubon, Pennsylvania, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Skyeview Upper Elementary School. Her sponsor is the Pennridge Community Educational Foundation, Perkasie.

71 Eric V. Gilson of Delaware, Ohio, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at David Smith Elementary School. Her 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 Kenosha News.

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 12-year-old 7th 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 Fredericktown, New Brunswick, is a 9-year-old 3rd grader at Park Street Elementary School. Her sponsor is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada.

78 Ricardo Shawkii Marrero-Alatari of Orlando, Florida, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Oviedo Jr./Sr. High School. His sponsor is the North Central Washington Collaborative Spelling Bee.

79 Emmanuel Santiago Rimaloc 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 Riverheads High School. Her sponsor is TheRecorder, Prince Frederick.

81 Ashok Choudhry of Prince Frederick, Maryland, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Plum Point Middle School. Her sponsor is The Record, Prince Frederick.

82 Will Lourcy 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 BoyertownJunior High West. Her sponsor is the Reading Eagle.

84 Lane Schnell of Centerville, Ohio, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Mapsgrove 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. Her sponsor is the Oroville School District.

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 Holy Cross Catholic Regional Junior High School. Her sponsor is The New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester.

89 Lucas Mooney of Charlotte, Virginia, is a home-schooled 13-year-old 8th grader at St. James Homeschoollers. His sponsor is The Journal, Martinsburg.

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

91 Andrew M. Masciarelli of Belleair, Ohio, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Belleair 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 Fairmont Junior/Senior High School. His sponsor is The Repository, Canton.

93 Arin Blandari of West Haven, Connecticut, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at May V. Carignan 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.

97 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.
26

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

97 Jesus Kaufman 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 Benton, 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 Melbane, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Gates Elementary Middle School. His sponsor is the Times-News, Burlington.

105 ThruSha 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 Kritik 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 Alexandria Griggs of Lawndale, North Carolina, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Buns 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 Ewa, Hawaii, 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 13-year-old 8th grader at Gates Elementary Middle School. His sponsor is The Gaston Gazette, Gastonia.

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

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

115 Winston Zhao 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 Kathleen A. Ryan of Ottomari, Florida, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Espritu Santo Catholic School. His sponsor is Espritu 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 Ehein Han of Arlington, 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 School Board Pows 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, Abilene.

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 Denee Jason Hines of Spanish Town, Jamaica, is a 11-year-old 7th grader at Glenmuir High School. Her sponsor is the Jamaica Observer, Kingston.

123 Hannah Barnettes of North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Thomas Harrison Middle School. Her sponsor is The Maine County Register, Rutland, Marsbury.

124 Grace C. McKeegan of Steelville, Missouri, 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 Westnak 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, Colorado, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Richard Bernotas Middle School. Her sponsor is the Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake.

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

128 Owen Rokhov 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 13-year-old 7th grader at Big County Home Educators. Her sponsor is the Tennessee Titans, Nashville.

130 Marla Mariana Nirula of Silver Spring, Maryland, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Briddges Chanev Middle School. Her sponsor is The Meakem Group, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

131 Kaitlin A. Ryan of Chicago, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 6th grader at Lakeside Country Day School. Her sponsor is the Chicago Spelling Bee Collaborative.

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

133 Josh Taylor of Eagle, Idaho, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Mcbride Lake Middle School. His sponsor is the Idaho Dispatch News, Butte.

134 Karah Hanif of Boston, Massachusetts, is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Wellington Elementary School. Her sponsor is Boston Centers for Youth and Family.

135 Mandy Marie Granz of Imlay City, Michigan, is a 12-year-old 5th grader at Imlay City Middle School. Her sponsor is The County Press, Imlay City.

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 a 13-year-old 7th 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 5th grader at Woodlawn Middle School. Her sponsor is KERO 23 ABC, Bakersfield.

139 Macey Ann Stancato of Beloit, Ohio, is a home-schooled 12-year-old 7th grader at West Branch Middle School. Her sponsor is The News Gazette, 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 of Annadopp, 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 Mcfarland, Ohio, 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.
28

146 Calvin Alexander, Jr. of Shreveport, Louisiana, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Cedar Park 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 Nyhols of Carlsbad, New Mexico, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Carlsbad Intermediate. 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 12-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 GreenTree Media Co., Las Vegas.

152 Phoebe V. Smith of Aston, Pennsylvania, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at North Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Mortion.

153 Casper L. Smith of Clayton, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th 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 Collins 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 Novato, Ohio, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Westwood Elementary School. His sponsor is The News-Herald, Willoughby.

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

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

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

164 Smitha Malla of Haverstraw, New York, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Fieldstone Middle School. Her sponsor is Fieldstone Middle School, White Plains.

165 Ben Lenger of Newot, Colorado, is an 11-year-old 7th grader at Sunset Middle School. Her 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-Parkersburg Community School. Her sponsor is Iowa University's Scripps College of Communication, Ames.

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 Lajpura, Nigeria, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at First Baptist Christian School. Her sponsor is the International Baptist Church, Arlington.

171 Akilan Siva of Kalkar, New Mexico, is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Marzano Day School. Her sponsor is The Albuquerque Journal.

172 Zach Sweers 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 Harsh Patel 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 Avi Sloan of West Point, New York, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Butler Junior High School. Her sponsor is the University of South Carolina, Columbia.

175 Neil J. Dave of Lakeland, Florida, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Lakeland Christian School. Her 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 Facan Annie Holf of Fort Irwin, California, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Cape Hatteras Secondary School. Her sponsor is the Wild Horse Elementary School.

178 Leela Waterford of Malakwa, Hawaii, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Emmanuel Lutheran School. Her sponsor is Kamu'ina Kids, Kalua.

179 Kendall 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 Chor of Chino Hills, California, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Flying Horse Elementary School. Her sponsor is Quest Literacy Consortium, Diamond Ranch.

181 Yash Hande of San Diego, California, is a 12-year-old 8th grader at Pacific Trails Middle School. Her sponsor is The San Diego Union-Tribune.

182 Aditya Badani of Oak Brook, Illinois, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Butler Junior High School. Her sponsor is Big Brothers Big Sisters of North America.

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 Steelev, Missouri, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Cape Hatteras Secondary School. Her sponsor is the Wild Horse Elementary School.

185 Elizabeth A. Muller of Fincoo, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Cape Hatteras Secondary School. Her sponsor is Three Rivers Community College, Poplar Bluff.

186 Theo Thompson-Ortiz of Hall, Nova Scotia, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Cape Hatteras Secondary School. Her sponsor is the Wild Horse Elementary School.

187 Ivan Thompson of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Cape Hatteras Secondary School. Her sponsor is Three Rivers Community College, Poplar Bluff.

188 Sunny G. Dodia of Naples, Florida, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Osceola Community School. Her sponsor is The Naples Daily News.

189 Rutvik Mohan of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at St. John's High School. His sponsor is the Telephone, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

190 Avia Jane Proper of Warner, New York, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at West Genesee Middle School. Her sponsor is Post Standard, Syracuse.

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 North Augusta, South Carolina, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Cape Hatteras Secondary School. Her sponsor is the Wild Horse Elementary School.

193 Abby Richburg of Manning, South Carolina, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Marlboro High 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 St Albans Island Junior High School. Her sponsor is the Augusta Chronicle.

195 Akshansh Ajay Kumar of Kitchener, Ontario, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Olds Park 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 Reshma Perry of Evansville, Indiana, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Washington Middle School. Her sponsor is the Evansville Courier & Press.

198 Reshmi Bakthirajan of Fairfax, Virginia, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Greenbrier West Elementary School. Her sponsor is the Fairfax County Council of PTA's, Merrifield.

199 Kelly L. Haven of Fort Defiance, Arizona, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Tohonocho Interim Learning Center. Her sponsor is the Navajo Times Press, Oyster-Adams Company, Window Rock.

200 Rakesh Kotla of Katy, Texas, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Beckendorf Junior High School. Her 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. Her sponsor is Saint Paul's School, Clearwater.

202 Maitland Mascen of Washington, District of Columbia, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Bilingua School. Her sponsor is The Washington Informer.

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

204 Faith Christine Baca of Aurora, Colorado, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Joseph's Secondary School. Her sponsor is The Denver Post.

205 Sydney 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 Shubhokhan Chakma of San Bernardino, California, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Richardson PREP Hill 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 Jo Daviess/Stephenson Regional Office of Education, Freeport.

210 Nasya 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. Hump 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 14-year-old 8th grader at San Angelo 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 Ghandhi of North Andover, Massachusetts, is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Franklin Elementary School. Her sponsor is The Daily Item, Lynn.

215 Soyoun 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 Burrett 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 PS/AS. 104 The 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 WCHS TV 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 Loyola Academy High School. Her sponsor is Chicago Public Schools.

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

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.


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 Pravita Vuppala of Perryburg, Ohio, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Perryburg Junior High School. Her sponsor is The Blade, Toledo.

226 Shaurir Ramanujan of Overland Park, Kansas, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Lawrence Free State High School. Her sponsor is The Kansas City Star.

227 Enya V. Hubers of Burlington, Ontario, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Hunter College High School. Her sponsor is The Times News, New York.

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, Penticton.

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 Joy E. 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 The Valley Breeder, Franklin, New Jersey.

232 Kael Miranda of Providence, Rhode Island, is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Lincoln School. Her sponsor is The Valley Breeder, Franklin, North Carolina.

233 Kael Miranda of Columbus, Missouri, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Perryville Junior High School. Her sponsor is The Blade, Toledo.

234 During Stehle of Trumann, Arkansas, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Harmony Middle School. His sponsor is the Hot Springs Daily News.

235 Brent Earl A. Ebarle of Williston, North Dakota, is a 12-year-old 8th grader at McLean GEMS. His sponsor is McLean GEMS, Franklin, Virginia.

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 an 11-year-old 6th grader at Cane Bay Middle School. His sponsor is The Ravenel Courier, Charleston.

238 Lisa Lin of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Thrasher Elementary School. Her sponsor is Chattanooga Times Free Press.

239 Urs Van Wynsberge of Van Wert, Ohio, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Lincolnview Elementary School. Her sponsor is The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

240 Ethan G. Greenley of Franklin, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Macon GEMS. His sponsor is Macon GEMS, Franklin, North Carolina.

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 of the Central Service Unit, Arden Hills.

242 Cassidy Crawford of Washington, 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 Ealing, United Kingdom, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Holy Trinity School. Her sponsor is the Young Educator Foundation, Accra.
244 Anmol Singh Bhatia of Greenbrook, New Jersey, is a 12-year-old 8th grader at Greentree 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 10th 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 Sessaman 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 Rishubah Kaushal of Sterling, Virginia, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Seneca Ridge Middle School. Her sponsor is Loudoun County Public Schools, Ashburn.

250 Ishreet K. Lehal of Terre Haute, Indiana, is a 12-year-old 8th grader at Terre Haute. 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 Hampton Roads Academy - Brownsville. Her sponsor is The Virginian-Pilot, Norfolk.

253 Dale Flanagan 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 McCallum Jr 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. His sponsor is Corbett Preparatory School of IDS, Tampa.

257 Ryan P. Himmelstosch of East Setauket, New York, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Setauket 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 Great Hearts School. 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 A&M 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 Sarj of Tampa, Florida, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at South Tampa Independent Learning. His sponsor is South Tampa Independent School.

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

265 Catherine Chung of Seongju, South Korea, is a 14-year-old 7th grader at Yaeji Middle School. Her sponsor is Yonin’s English School, Seoul.

266 Magnus A. Keswani of Syracum, Illinois, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at St. Mary’s Catholic School. His sponsor is the Daily Herald, Dekalb.

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

268 Eujinema 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 19-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 the Spirit of Texas, Houston.

271 Lee 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 Nabiil 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 Rochester, Minnesota, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at ABE Middle School. His sponsor is Rapoport Holdings, LLC, Wacon.

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

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

276 Akshra P. Palmagam of Charlotte, North Carolina, is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Randolph Middle School. Her sponsor is The Charlotte Observer.

277 Luca Varenni of Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Parcells 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 Roxbury Intermediate School. Her sponsor is Roxbury Intermediate School, Cherry Hill.

279 Garrett Bnyr of Price, Utah, is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Mountain View Middle School. His sponsor is the Southeast Education Center, Price.

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

281 Thomas York of Rochester, Minnesota, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Albert Lea Middle School. His sponsor is the Southwest Minnesota Cooperative, Rochester.

282 Elizabeth Dalynn Tibrina of Collierville, Tennessee, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Bartlett Middle School. Her sponsor is Bartlett Middle School, Kansas City.

283 Christopher James Kielknecht of Barberton, Ohio, is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Mary’s Elementary School. Her 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 Linky School. Her sponsor is the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

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

286 Merly S. Tignoah 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 Alisha 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 Lyndellville, Minnesota, is a 12-year-old 8th grader at Thaddeus Stevens School. Her sponsor is The Southern Minn Star, Marshall.

290 Edith Fuller of Austin, Texas, is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Lake Travis Elementary School. Her sponsor is the National Joint Powers Alliance, Austin.

291 Marlene M. Schaff of Lake Forest, Illinois, is a home-schooled 14-year-old 8th grader at Math Science Project. Her sponsor is the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.
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 Loefler
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Nicolet Dittoe
Local Sponsorship Manager
Nicolet works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company’s corporate office. This is her seventh 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 officer 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.

College Crew

Liza Buck
College Crew
Liza is an undergraduate student at Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio.

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.

Jordan Hoffman
College Crew
Jordan is an undergraduate student at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. She represented The Tennessean 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.

Gabe DeFreitas
College Crew
Gabe 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 Team 8 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 2013 national champion, representing the Times Leader in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

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

Madisyn Steinberg
College Crew
Madisyn is an undergraduate student at The Dickinson School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Joanna Ye
College Crew
Joanna is an undergraduate student at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She represented The Public Works 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 freelance 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 Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mike Epstein
Production Staff
Mike is a 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 Portland, Oregon.

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

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

Robbyn Hidal
Media Desk Manager
Robbyn 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” Kontopoulos
Production Staff
V is a senior director of application development and welfare benefits for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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.

Bridge Nealis
Production Staff
Bridge is an associate wealth management advisor for Northwestern Mutual in West Chester, Ohio.

Malorie Nealis
Production Staff
Malorie 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.

Bret Pappas
Production Staff
Bret is an application architect for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Kim 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 sales 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 a 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 a senior director of digital UI/UX for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Pam Wise
Production Staff
Ram 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.

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 Weyrich
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 Wildemann
Production Staff
Kim is digital promotions and content manager for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Kirsty Winner
Production Staff
Kirsty is an internal communications 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.

Andrea Kilgore
Production Staff
Andrea is a partner at ColorNine, a marketing consultancy with offices in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Malorie Nealis
Production Staff
Malorie 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.

Kim 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 sales 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 a 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 a senior director of digital UI/UX for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Pam Wise
Production Staff
Ram 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

312 Walnut Street, 28th Floor
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Before and after Bee Week: 513-977-3040
Media Desk during Bee Week: 301-965-5571
Speller & Sponsor Desk during Bee Week: 301-965-5570

#spellingbee
spellingbee.com