



APPLICATION PROCESS: BEE WEEK 2026 COLLEGE CREW

I. OVERVIEW OF THE BEE

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational program, administered by The E.W. Scripps Company. Bee Week 2026 takes place Sunday, May 24 through Friday, May 29. Champion spellers, their family members, regional partners, educators, and members of the media will attend Bee Week. Throughout the week, participants compete in the national competition, attend tours and parties, and take part in other activities and events.

II. WHAT COLLEGE CREW DOES

Members of the College Crew answer questions from parents, spellers, regional partners, and members of the media; unpack and pack boxes; perform clerical tasks; set and reset the stage and other event venues; attend meetings and rehearsals; serve as ushers, and more. Along the way, they form valuable networking connections and gain important experience in event management, media relations and communications.

III. CREW ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Crew members are not required to have experience with spelling bees. Exceptional spelling skill is not required, but excellent oral communication and interpersonal skills are a must.

An applicant must:

- be a full-time student finishing their freshman, sophomore, junior or senior year of college in the spring of 2026;
- provide at least two work or volunteer references;
- commit to arrive at JW Marriott in Washington D.C., on Friday, May 22, 2026, and depart on Saturday, May 30, 2026;
- comply with COVID-19 safety protocols imposed by the Bee, the venue, Scripps, or applicable law;
- comply with the College Crew dress code and conduct yourself in a manner conducive to a professional environment;
- not be a first-, second- or third-degree relative of an E.W. Scripps Company employee, 2026 national competitor, Bee official, or Bee Week contributor not a part of the College Crew;
- not have served in any paid or volunteer instructional, coaching, or advisory capacity for students preparing for spelling bees, and
- submit a completed College Crew application to the Bee by January 23, 2026.

Previous participation in Bee Week or spelling bees at any level is not required for College Crew consideration. Former College Crew members who meet the above eligibility requirements are welcome to reapply for 2026.

IV. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Bee will cover your room & tax at the JW Marriott in Washington D.C. over the dates you are required to serve at Bee Week: May 22 (check-in) through May 30 (check-out). You will share a room with two double beds with another College Crew member of the same gender.

You will be responsible for arranging travel to and from the JW Marriott in Washington D.C.

V. COMPENSATION

If you are offered a College Crew position and you successfully complete your Bee Week assignments, you will receive a \$1,400 stipend for your time, and to assist with coverage of your transportation to and from Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, and incidental travel expenses you may incur during Bee Week (taxi fare, airport parking, baggage fees, meals, etc.), a \$1,100 travel stipend.

VI. HOW TO APPLY

On or before **January 23, 2026**, you should visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/23LJWYT> to apply. The information you will be required to provide includes:

- personal information;
- college/university information;
- two work or volunteer references;
- certification of your ability to arrive at JW Marriott on May 22, 2026, and depart on May 30, 2026;
- a one- to two-paragraph answer to the question: “Why should you be part of the Bee’s College Crew?”

Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

VII. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU APPLY?

Available spots for the 2026 College Crew are limited.

1. By early February, all applicants will be notified of their status in the selection process. Finalist candidates will be asked to participate in a phone interview.
 2. Individuals selected for the 2026 College Crew will receive notification by early March. If you are selected to serve on the College Crew, you will be subject to a background check.
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VIII. QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the application process or any of the information contained herein, you may contact us at www.spellingbee.com/contact.