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County Superintendent of Schools

Orange County Department of Education
Educational and Student Services Division

Scripps National Spelling Bee®

2027 Orange County Spelling Bee

Program Overview

The Orange County Spelling Bee is coordinated by the Orange County Department of Education in partnership with the Orange County Register. Winners from school or district spelling bees participate in the county's preliminary written round. The top spellers from the written round advance to the final round where they compete to become the top speller in the county.

The winner of the Orange County Spelling Bee advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The winner's participation in the national finals is sponsored by the Orange County Register.

The Orange County Spelling Bee supports California State Standards by encouraging students to improve their spelling and expand their vocabularies, which positively affects reading and writing skills. In addition, spelling bees help strengthen communication and character development, which helps students to be successful in school and beyond.

Student Eligibility

1. Students must be the winners of their school or district spelling bee program.
2. Students **must attend an Orange County school.**
3. Students must be in **grades six, seven, or eight**, and may not be older than 14 years of age.
4. Students must meet all Scripps National Spelling Bee eligibility requirements.
5. Students must attend a school that is officially enrolled with the **Scripps National Spelling Bee**.

District/School Eligibility

1. Districts and schools must host their spelling bee by **January 29, 2027.**
2. Districts that host their own spelling bee may send up to ten (10) students designated as winners.
3. For districts that **do not** host their own spelling bee, individual schools may host their own competition.
    - Elementary schools serving grades K-6 may send up to three (3) students designated as winners.
    - Middle, intermediate, junior high, and K-8 schools may send up to six (6) students designated as winners.

All schools (including homeschool associations) must register with Scripps National Spelling Bee. To be eligible to participate in the Orange County Spelling Bee, a district or school employee must register through the Scripps website.

Steps to Participation

1. Enroll with the Scripps National Spelling Bee at http://www.spellingbee.com/. Once enrolled, coordinators will have access to grade-specific word lists, pronouncer guides, certificates, rules for local spelling bees, fundraising ideas, and more.
2. Submit Intent to Participate form to the Orange County Department of Education.
3. Direct students to visit the Orange County Spelling Bee website at https://ocde.us/SpellingBee for study resources. Students may also visit the Scripps website for study resources.
4. Host district and/or school spelling bees.
5. Submit Orange County Spelling Bee enrollment paperwork and fees for each student eligible to move forward in the county level competition.
6. Provide all student winners with the Scripps National Spelling Bee *"*Words of the Champions" booklet (district/school coordinators can download booklets from the Scripps National Spelling Bee website).

Fees

There are **two separate fees** required in order to participate in the Orange County Spelling Bee.

1. Scripps National Spelling Bee:
    - Enrollment fee: $199 per school (cost increases to $225 after November 30, 2026)
    - Scripps enrollment fee includes grade-specific word lists, pronouncer guides, certificates, rules for local spelling bees, fundraising ideas, and additional information to support local events
2. Orange County Department of Education:
    - Orange County Spelling Bee Registration fee: $130 per student
    - Purchase orders or checks are accepted from the school, district, or PTA

Important Dates

November 30, 2026	Deadline to submit Orange County Spelling Bee Intent to Participate
January 29, 2027	Deadline to host district or school spelling bee
February 4, 2027	Deadline to register winners and submit Orange County Spelling Bee enrollment paperwork and fees
February 22, 2027	**Orange County Spelling Bee Written Round**
February 23, 2027	Top spellers advancing to the final round will be announced on the Orange County Spelling Bee website
February 27, 2027	**Orange County Spelling Bee Final Round** Winner represents the county at the Scripps National Spelling Bee
May 31–June 4, 2027	**2027 Scripps National Spelling Bee** Visit Scripps website beginning May 1, 2027, for a full competition schedule

For more information, please contact Theresa Bernard, Project Liaison, Academic Events at (714) 966-4316 or spellingbee@ocde.us.