Scripps National Spelling Bee®

a guide for **educators and schools**

Everything you can bee.

Enroll your school today!

enroll starting August 18, 2026

spellingbee.com/enroll

Included!
College and career planning tools from CollegeBoard

meet the Bee's Educator of the Year



Yasmeen Harris-Youngblood
"I made sure there was a way for every kid to do [the spelling bee] if they wanted to"

why join the hive?

Strengthen study skills, sportsmanship, goal setting and other life skills

Encourage a school culture of camaraderie and academic excellence

Take students' vocabulary and language skills to the next level

Inspire a love of learning in your students

Boost students' confidence and public speaking skills

Helping students bee-come lifelong learners for 100 years

For more than a century, the Bee has been an iconic cultural touchstone for students across the U.S. and beyond. Gift your students the opportunity to compete in the spelling bee program, from the classroom level all the way to the national stage. Enroll your school in the Scripps National Spelling Bee program and start your students on a journey to deeper word knowledge!

Visit spellingbee.com/enroll today.

For $199 per school, receive everything you need to bring a school spelling bee program to life!

"Competing in the Bee has fostered my curiosity for the world, helped me discover a passion for language and etymology and given me a platform to express myself"

-Vanya Shivashankar, Pronouncer & 2015 Champion



#spellingbee

A to Z of the Bee

enroll your school

Beginning August 18, 2026, complete the short online enrollment process for your elementary or middle school at **spellingbee.com/enroll**.

host the school bee that works best for your school community

The spelling bee program can be tailored to fit what's best for your students and faculty, whether that's hosting classroom- and grade-level competitions that feed into a school spelling bee, or giving students the opportunity to opt into a school-wide competition.

cheer on students at the regional competitions

School champions compete in regional qualifier and regional spelling bees sponsored by regional partners across the country. Which organization partners with the Bee to bring the spelling bee program to your area? **Check here!**

watch students compete on the national stage

In May, spellers arrive in Washington, D.C., to take part in the Bee Week experience, and a national Champion is declared during a nationally televised, live broadcast.

enrollment includes:

- eligibility for every student to participate in your school's program
- training resources, competition materials and program support
- all materials to organize classroom, grade and school spelling bees
- special prizes and certificates for your champion and participants
- classroom activities and study materials to make word study fun!

important dates:

School enrollment opens for the 2027 season:	**August 18, 2026**
School enrollment fee increases to $225 per school:	**December 1, 2026**
School enrollment closes for the 2027 season:	**January 29, 2027***
Regional Competition Season:	**February & March 2027**
National Competition and Bee Week:	**May 30 - June 4, 2027**

*Some restrictions may apply. Visit spellingbee.com/enroll for specific enrollment dates in your area.

hosting your school bee

choose your own spelling bee adventure!

There are several ways to run a bee program at your school. Pick the option that works best for your students and faculty! No matter what path their spelling bee journey follows, your students will gain knowledge in spelling and vocabulary that will help them shine their light on the world.

school-wide competition

Students advance from classroom- or grade-level spelling bees to the school spelling bee.

The traditional spelling bee program is a great option to engage your entire school in a spelling bee tradition.

written test

When you enroll, you gain access to written testing materials that allow you to assess students' spelling and vocabulary knowledge. Students with the best test scores advance to your school spelling bee.

The written test option is great for school-wide participation but allows teachers to qualify students for their school spelling bee via a written test instead of a traditional spelldown method.

opt-in

Students are nominated by teachers or volunteer to participate in the school spelling bee.

Schools may host a school spelling bee with a smaller cohort of students who have a curiosity or aptitude for language, reading and spelling.

what you'll need

1. **a school bee coordinator** to plan and coordinate the school spelling bee program
2. **bee officials** a 3-person panel of officials who serve as the pronouncer, judge and record keeper for your school spelling bee
3. **location** for your school spelling bee (cafeteria, gym or auditorium)
4. **a passion for helping your students have fun while learning!**

new this year!

Spelling Bee resource center

CollegeBoard

We are thrilled to partner with College Board, the official student success partner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, to launch this brand-new hub for parents and families of spellers in enrolled schools.

The Spelling Bee Resource Center will provide direct access for parents, allowing them to create accounts at spellingbee.com and download study lists for their students, simplifying the process for spelling bee preparation at home.

bringing your bee to life!

Once you've enrolled your school, access everything you need to run a successful spelling bee program in the online School Portal at **spellingbee.com**.

tools for running classroom and school spelling bees

classroom and school competition lists

Guides for running classroom and school spelling bees

written test forms

Materials for conducting a spelling bee via a written test

study materials

Study Materials for your spellers including word lists that are grouped by level of difficulty to match grade levels

classroom activities to spark your students' curiosity and knowledge of words

words of the champions

The regional spelling bee study list to support your school champion's next step in their spelling bee journey

the Bee's book shelf

A collection of leveled books that features all the words from this year's *School Spelling Bee Study List*

the beehive

A biweekly newsletter for educators with spelling bee tips and tricks plus educational content from partners like Merriam-Webster and the News Literacy Project

partner offers

Encyclopædia Britannica

A one-year subscription to **Britannica Online for Kids** (a $74.95 value) to provide to a spelling bee participant – plus a second subscription if you enroll before September 30!

news-O-matic

A 30-day free trial to **News-O-Matic** plus a 35% discount on an annual subscription (over a $500 value)!



A free **Tapple** game* for even more word fun in your classroom plus an exclusive classroom activity guide from the Bee!

*Eligible schools enrolled in the 2026-2027 SNSB program may receive one (1) complimentary Tapple game provided by Op Games, while supplies last up to a maximum of 25,000 schools. Offer available only to schools located within the contiguous 48 United States.

who's who of your school bee

The spelling bee is a great way to bring your school community together! Here's who should be on your bee team.

school enroller

Whether it's your School Bee Coordinator, a school administrator or a member of your school's support staff, identify one person to complete your school's online enrollment at **spellingbee.com/enroll**.

school bee coordinator

The School Bee Coordinator determines the details and logistics of your school's spelling bee and is responsible for communicating those details to the spellers who will be competing. At the classroom and school levels, this involves selecting the date of those bees and sharing that information with faculty, the spellers who will participate and their parents.

pronouncer

The pronouncer is the speller's key resource during the spelling bee. They pronounce words and provide word information to the speller using prepared and approved competition materials included as part of your school's enrollment with the Bee.

judges

Judges rule on spellings and answers to vocabulary questions provided by spellers during the competition. They maintain a thorough knowledge of the competition rules and swiftly weigh in on questions regarding the competition.

record keeper(s)

The record keepers are responsible for documenting and reporting on the spelling bee competition as it happens and recording spellers' answers in real time during the school competition.



Enroll now at
spellingbee.com/enroll

#spellingbee



Scripps National Spelling Bee®
educator of the year

When Yasmeen Harris-Youngblood first got involved in Victor H. Hexter Elementary School's spelling bee 11 years ago in Dallas, she was aware that students had previously been hand-picked for the competition each year. Her first order of business as coordinator: Create an accessible spelling bee.

"I made sure there was a way for every kid to do it if they wanted to," she said. "We invited other grades to come and watch. We made it a really big deal. From then on, it became something that kids aspired to. We changed the culture here. I knew what that opportunity could do for a child."

Indeed, Harris-Youngblood knew firsthand.

She was hand-picked for her school's spelling bee in seventh grade in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She remembers her English teacher putting up a congratulatory pink banner in her classroom with names of three students who were top 10, including Harris-Youngblood's.

The banner stayed up all year and served as a powerful motivator to Harris-Youngblood, who said she felt like there were new academic expectations for her.

"It was that visibility that made me a better student," she said. "It made me focus on school. My English teacher, Miss Matthews, never knew what that did for me. That left a huge lasting impression on me."

This is the second school at which Harris-Youngblood has become involved in the spelling bee. Her team works hard to make its bee an event that everyone in the school is excited about and makes the spellers feel special. Participation has increased 200% since she took over.

It is her 19th year in education. She was a fifth-grade teacher at her school until 2024 when she became campus librarian.

Fellow teacher Sandra Byler wrote in her nomination form that Harris-Youngblood is a champion for literacy at the school, adding: "She has unlocked a legacy of belief, showing every student at our school that their intelligence is a source of power and that greatness is well within their reach."

The Educator of the Year was recognized with:

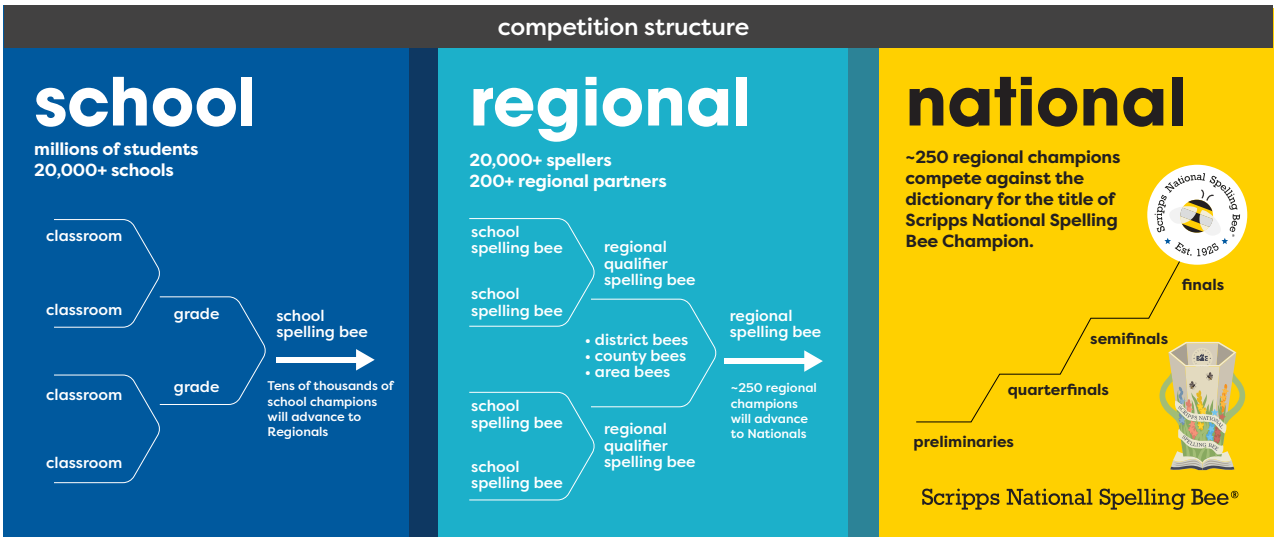
- A trip to experience Bee Week and the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.
- Award recognition in the official opening ceremony of the Scripps National Spelling Bee
- A $500 Visa Gift Card
- Featured article in our Bee Week magazine
- Recognition online in social media and The Beehive educator newsletter

Fun facts:

At age 23, Harris-Youngblood taught in Ghana (2005). She has summitted Kilimanjaro (2018) and trekked the Camino de Santiago in Spain (2025). She also created **The Trekking Teacher**, a platform that blends education, storytelling and international exploration to inspire curiosity and expand perspective.

speller's journey

A student's spelling bee journey begins with your school's enrollment in the Scripps National Spelling Bee program. Enrolling gives every student at your school eligibility to compete in the spelling bee program, from the classroom and school levels to regionals and even the National Competition!



Click here to learn more about how the bee works!

Study lists, organized by grade level

For a classroom- or grade-level spelling bee, your student can study from a list of words for their grade level, from first through eighth grade.

School Spelling Bee Study List

Once a student masters their grade-level words, they can study the 450 words on the *School Spelling Bee Study List*, which encompasses words for all grade levels from first through eighth grade. Will vocabulary be included in your competition? Provide the study list with definitions, featuring parts of speech and definitions for each word.

words of the champions

Words of the Champions

For any competition after your school spelling bee, a student should study *Words of the Champions*, the regional spelling bee study list with 4,000 words divided by difficulty level.

Did you know your students can learn their study words by playing word games and quizzes?

With the free Word Club app, students can have fun while mastering the words from the *School Spelling Bee Study List* and *Words of the Champions*!

word club

#spellingbee

Enroll today at spellingbee.com!



CollegeBoard

A Partner From the Start

Ever heard of AP classes? The SAT? They are both part of College Board. We're proud to support the Scripps National Spelling Bee community because we see the same qualities in your students that we work to nurture every day: curiosity, discipline, and the courage to try something hard.

Our mission is simple: clear a path for every student to own their future. Our programs are built around the durable skills, practice, persistence, and focus, that make those outcomes possible—the same skills your students are already building at the Bee.

We also believe it's never too early to start talking with students and their families about what comes next. Not as a commitment, and not as pressure, just as exploration. Free tools like BigFuture help students explore different careers and colleges, and connect them to over $1.5 billion in scholarships awarded each year, so students can start to see what's possible for their future.

Learn more at
cb.org/scripps

CollegeBoard

Durable Skills Open Doors to the Future



The habits your students are building now — practicing consistently, learning from mistakes, staying focused under pressure — are the same durable skills that open doors down the road. And the earlier students start playing with tools like BigFuture's Career Quiz, the sooner they get a visible, tangible sense of the paths ahead, so by high school, they already have some direction.

College Board has tools built for this stage:

Pre-AP Courses
Build readiness for Advanced Placement® coursework, college, and future careers.

PSAT 8/9
Establishes a readiness baseline and provides early insight into students' core reading, writing, and math skills.

College Search
Filter by location, price, majors, and more to build a college list.

Career Quiz
A 15-minute quiz to get matched with careers based on likes and dislikes.

Learn more at
cb.org/scripps

buzz from the



1925
the bee that started it all

Nine spellers competed in the first Bee, held in Washington, D.C., in 1925. Frank Neuhauser from Louisville, Kentucky, won by correctly spelling the word gladiolus.

2017 the youngest spellebrity

At just six years old, Edith Fuller became the youngest speller to secure a spot in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. To qualify, she out-spelled 52 other children at the regional competition, spelling such challenging words as... jnana, sarsaparilla and Baedeker.





2019 octochamps!

The Bee has had co-champions in a few instances, beginning back in 1950 when two champions were named. The record for the most champions of a Scripps National Spelling Bee was broken in 2019 when eight spellers went on to share the trophy. They even received a Guinness World Record nod for their win!

2025 the bee turns 100

We celebrated 100 Years of the Bee in style with special events and activities that emphasized the **Bee's history**. Faizan Zaki made history himself by becoming only the fifth speller to win the Bee after previously placing second!



Bee a part of history and enroll your school today
Enroll now at spellingbee.com/enroll.

mission

By inspiring the exploration of words, the Scripps National Spelling Bee illuminates pathways to lifelong curiosity, celebrates academic achievement and enriches communities.

vision

To give students the words they need to shine their light on the world.



There's a champion at every school in your district!

Enroll today at spellingbee.com/enroll

bee

Scripps National Spelling Bee®