

Spelling Bee Rules

Participants

- 50 maximum participants
- Open to all ages and backgrounds
- Not exclusive to state or higher education employees
- Each participant may bring one guest

Set-Up

- All participants will be seated on the stage in an order predetermined by a random drawing of names. The list of names will be provided to the participants and audience at the Bee. Each speller will be given a number to wear around their neck during the Bee

Roles

- **Pronouncer:** correctly pronounce the word and give a definition and a sentence, at the speller's request.
- **Judge(x2):** determine if the contestant has spelled the word correctly, prompt speller to begin if they have not done so themselves.
- **Timekeeper:** will start 20 second timer once contestant pronounces their word or judge prompts speller to begin, disqualifies contestant if they go over time
- **Speller:** The role of the speller is (1) to gather as much information as needed to help spell the word correctly, and (2) to spell the word correctly within the 20 second time.
- **Volunteers:** sign-in all contestants, hand out numbers, be on stand-by for contestants and CFD team

Rules (adapted from scripps)

- Participants will spell in the order they are seated. There will be one warm up/practice round in which misspelled words will not count against you. The first round will include all spellers. Each subsequent round will include only those spellers who spelled their word correctly in the previous round.
- Words will increase in difficulty as each round progresses.
- The pronouncer will give each speller a word. The speller must pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it.
- The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, and/or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judge agrees that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. The judge may disqualify a speller who ignores a request to start spelling. Once the speller pronounces the word, the speller has twenty seconds to spell it. The 20 seconds begin when the speller pronounces the word. The speller spells the word and then signals to the judges that they are done spelling by pronouncing the word again.

- e.g. Pronouncer gives the word “bee” to the speller. The speller may ask for a definition and sentence. The speller proceeds by saying, “Bee, b-e-e, bee.” The judges indicate that the word has been spelled correctly (“that’s correct”) and the speller sits down.
- The Bee will be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the Bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in that round.
- Upon missing the spelling of one word, the speller is out of the competition. The judge rings the bell and reads the correct spelling of the word. The speller then sits down and turns their number card over so that the number is not visible. The next word on the pronouncer’s list is given to the next speller.
- If none of the spellers spells a word correctly during the round, all spellers in that round shall remain in the competition, turning their number cards back over to reveal the number.
- At the end of each round, the spellers who missed the spelling of a word move to the back of the room.
- If only one of the spellers remaining in the Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during the round, the speller who correctly spells a word is declared the winner.
- If there is one speller remaining in a round within the first hour, the contestant will be asked to spell a final word to secure their win.
- If they do not spell the final word correctly, contestants in that round will have another chance to spell a word correctly and stay in the competition.
- When two contestants remain in the Bee, the contestants shall be given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list. The final round shall “volley” back and forth until a contestant misspells a word. The other contestant will not receive a new word until they can spell the previously misspelled word correctly. A contestant must spell two words, in a row, correctly including the previously misspelled word from their opponent. For example:
 - As soon as contestant 1 misses a word, contestant 2 shall be immediately given the opportunity to spell the same word (contestant 1 is not out yet)
 - If contestant 2 correctly spells that word, they must now spell another word correctly (still, contestant 1 is not out yet)
 - If contestant 2 then spells their second word correctly, they are then declared the champion.
 - If contestant 2 does not spell the second word correctly, then it goes back to contestant 1 and they are given the opportunity to then correctly spell the word that contestant 2 just misspelled (contestant 2 is not out yet)
 - This can go back and forth if the contestants can only spell one word correctly instead of two in a row.
 - If both contestants spell the same word incorrectly, then the pronouncer will give a new word to whichever contestant is up next (both contestants shall continue in the competition).

Itinerary

- 11-11:30 am: Registration check-in
- Secretary of State Office, Conference room
- 11:45 am: Welcome and opening remarks
- State reception room
- 11:50 am: Rule reading
- 12:00 pm: BEEgins
- 1:30 pm: Closing
- Award presentation
 - Thank Yous
- 1:40 pm: Group picture