

SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

BEE WEEK GUIDE

2013



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WHAT IS THE ORIGIN of the term *spelling bee*?

The word *bee*, as used in *spelling bee*, is one of those language puzzles that has never been satisfactorily accounted for. A fairly old and widely used word, it refers to a community social gathering at which friends and neighbors join together in a single activity (sewing, quilting, barn raising, etc.) usually to help one person or family. The earliest known example in print is a *spinning bee* in 1769. Other early occurrences are *husking bee* (1816), *apple bee* (1827), and *logging bee* (1836). *Spelling bee* is apparently an American term. It first appeared in print in 1875, but it seems certain that the term was used orally for several years before that.

Those who used the word, including most early students of language, assumed that it was the same word as referred to the insect. They thought that this particular meaning had probably been inspired by the obvious similarity between these human gatherings and the industrious, social nature of a beehive. But in recent years scholars have rejected this explanation, suggesting instead that this *bee* is a completely different word. One possibility is that it comes from the Middle English word *bene*, which means “a prayer” or “a favor” (and is related to the more familiar word *boon*). In England, a dialect form of this word, *been* or *bean*, referred to “voluntary help given by neighbors toward the accomplishment of a particular task” (*Webster’s Third New International Dictionary*). *Bee* may simply be a shortened form of *been*, but no one is entirely certain.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 28

Preliminaries Test

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *Chesapeake F*

All spellers will participate in this computer-based test at their individual test appointment times.

Wednesday, May 29

Preliminaries: Round Two Live on ESPN3

8:00 – 11:45 a.m. *Maryland Ballroom*

- Spellers 1 through 140 spell onstage between 8:00 and 9:45 a.m.
- Spellers 141 through 281 spell onstage between 10:00 and 11:45 a.m.

Preliminaries: Round Three Live on ESPN3

1:15 – 4:45 p.m. *Maryland Ballroom*

- Spellers 1 through 140 spell onstage between 1:15 and 2:45 p.m.
- Spellers 141 through 281 spell onstage between 3:15 and 4:45 p.m.

Semifinals Test

7:00 – 7:45 p.m. *Chesapeake G*

All Semifinalist spellers will participate in this computer-based test.

Thursday, May 30

Semifinals: Live on ESPN2

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. *Maryland Ballroom*

Championship Finals: Live on ESPN

8:00 – 10:00 p.m. *Maryland Ballroom*



ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational program. We are administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company in cooperation with local spelling bee sponsors in the United States, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Department of Defense Schools in Europe. Additionally, we work with international sponsors in the Bahamas, Canada, China, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan and South Korea.



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.

Organization Headquarters

Our year-round staff based in Cincinnati, Ohio, organizes the national finals, produces word lists and study materials, works with local spelling bee sponsors and enrolls schools.

Local Spelling Bee Sponsors

Each year we grant a limited number of local spelling bee sponsorships to media organizations, universities, nonprofits and other community leaders. Most organizations sponsoring local spelling bees are not owned by The E.W. Scripps Company. In fact, only 13 sponsorships were awarded to Scripps-owned television stations and newspapers this year.

Local sponsors conduct community spelling bee programs in cooperation with teachers and administrators at public, private, parochial, charter, virtual and home schools. The champion of each sponsor's program qualifies for participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Schools

Every fall, thousands of schools enroll in our program. Throughout the fall and winter, schools conduct spelling bees at the classroom, grade and school level to choose their representatives for the next level of competition.

Students may further compete in district, county or regional spelling bees before earning the right to represent their communities at the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Students

More than 11 million students participated in this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee at one level or another. To prepare, students used study materials created by spelling bee staff and Merriam-Webster using our official dictionary: *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and its addenda section, copyright 2002.

All of the spellers here have advanced to the Scripps National Spelling Bee by winning a series of spelling bees as outlined by their local spelling bee sponsors. In general terms, the program is open to students who are 15 years old or younger, have not passed beyond eighth grade and attend schools officially enrolled with our program for the current academic year. See Rule 1 on page 4 for full eligibility requirements.

History

This is the 86th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. The program began in 1925 with nine contestants, and Scripps assumed sponsorship in 1941. During the World War II years of 1943, 1944 and 1945, no National Spelling Bee was held. The Bee declared co-champions in 1950, 1957 and 1962. Of the 88 champions, 47 have been girls and 41 have been boys. See pages 16 and 17 for a complete list of champions and their winning words.

PRIZES

For the Champion

From Scripps: a \$30,000 cash prize and the Scripps National Spelling Bee engraved trophy

From Merriam-Webster: a \$2,500 U.S. savings bond and a complete reference library

From Encyclopaedia Britannica: \$2,000 of reference works including the Britannica Global Edition, 2013 Encyclopaedia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite DVD-ROM, and a three-year membership to Britannica Online Premium

For the Champion's School and Sponsor

From Scripps: Scripps National Spelling Bee engraved plaques

For the Championship Finalists

From Encyclopaedia Britannica: Encyclopaedia Britannica CD/DVD Software Gift Pack

For All Spellers

From Scripps:

Participated only in the Preliminaries: \$100 VISA gift card

Participated in the Semifinals but not the Championship Finals: \$500 VISA gift card

Misspell in the first round of the Championship Finals to seventh place: \$1,500

Sixth Place: \$2,000

Fifth Place: \$2,500

Fourth Place: \$3,000

Third Place: \$7,500

Second Place: \$12,500

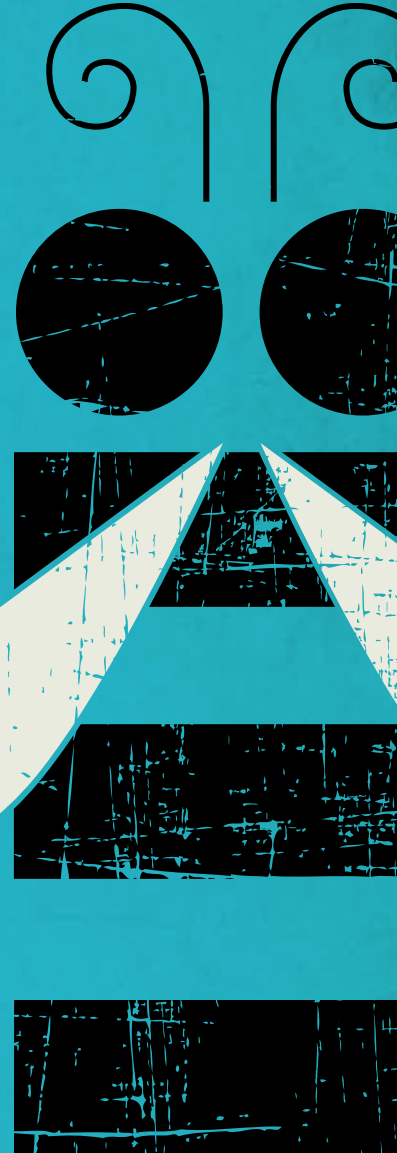
From Merriam-Webster:

Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged, on CD-ROM

From Mr. Jay Sugarman:

The Samuel Louis Sugarman Award — a 2013 United States Mint Proof Set presented by Mr. Sugarman in honor of his father

Spellers who are eliminated from the competition in the same round are assigned the same rank (place). If Bee officials declare Co-Champions, each Co-Champion will receive a \$30,000 first place cash prize. Cash prizes for Championship Finalist spellers who are tied for places other than first place will be determined in accordance with the method described in this example: If three spellers are tied for fourth place, the cash prize for these three spellers will be determined by adding the prize amounts for fourth, fifth and sixth place and dividing by three (the number of spellers tied for fourth place).



CONTEST RULES OF THE 2013 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

Rule 1: Eligibility

A speller qualifying for the 2013 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 passed beyond the eighth grade on or before February 1, 2013.
- (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 March 31, 2013; and the Bee will, in its sole discretion, determine the speller's eligibility status on or before April 30, 2013.
- (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, 2013.
- (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 weekday for 34 of the 38 weeks between August 27, 2012, and May 18, 2013.
- (9) The speller must not have reached the age of 15 on or before August 31, 2012.
- (10) The speller must have been declared a champion of a final local spelling bee on or after February 1, 2013.
- (11) The speller must not have been disqualified at any level of a sponsor's spelling bee program between June 2012 and April 2013. Further, if the speller becomes disqualified at any level of a sponsor's spelling bee program before April 2013, the speller will be ineligible to compete in the Bee and may not seek advancement in the Bee through another sponsor and/or enrollment in another school.
- (12) The speller must not have any first-, second- or third-degree relatives (i.e. sibling, child, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, half-sibling, first cousin or great grandchild) who are current employees of The E.W. Scripps Company.
- (13) The speller, upon qualifying for the Bee, must submit a completed online Champion Profile form, a signed Appearance Consent and Release Form and a hard copy of 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 speller's sponsor will provide access to the necessary forms.

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 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee and April 30, 2014 — 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 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Rule 2: Preliminaries Format

The Preliminaries is the first of three distinct segments of the competition: Preliminaries, Semifinals and Championship Finals.

The Preliminaries consists of a test (Preliminaries Test) delivered by computer on Tuesday, May 28 and two rounds of oral spelling onstage on Wednesday, May 29. 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.

Spellers must report to the Chesapeake F Room in the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center for the Preliminaries Test at their individual appointment times. Individual test appointment times are claimed by spellers prior to Bee Week 2013 through the online Champion Profile Form available to spellers who log into spellingbee.com.

The Preliminaries Test has four sections:

1. In Section A, the speller will spell 24 words using a computer keyboard. Only 12 of the 24 spellings will count toward the speller's Preliminaries score — one point per each correctly spelled score word. The 12 spelling words that count toward the speller's Preliminaries score will be labeled

“score spelling words” by Bee officials prior to May 28, but score spelling word status will not be apparent to a speller while taking the test. Score spelling words are the same for all spellers. This part of the test will be labeled as Round One.

2. In Section B, the speller will respond to 24 multiple-choice vocabulary questions. Only 12 of the 24 vocabulary responses will count toward the speller’s Preliminaries score — one point per each correctly answered vocabulary question. The 12 vocabulary questions that count toward the speller’s Preliminaries score will be labeled “score vocabulary questions” by Bee officials prior to May 28. Score vocabulary questions are the same for all spellers. This part of the test will also be labeled as Round One.
3. In Section C, the speller will respond to one multiple-choice vocabulary question that will be labeled as a Round Two vocabulary question and, if correctly answered, count three points toward the speller’s Preliminaries score. The speller’s Round Two vocabulary question will be unique to the speller.
4. In Section D, the speller will respond to one multiple-choice vocabulary question that will be labeled as a Round Three vocabulary question and, if correctly answered, count three points toward the speller’s Preliminaries score. The speller’s Round Three vocabulary question will be unique to the speller.

During the afternoon of Wednesday, May 29 the Bee will publicly identify the 12 score spelling words and the 12 score vocabulary questions on spellingbee.com; also, the Bee will email individual speller Preliminaries Test score reports to parents and spellers.

Eliminations: There are no immediate eliminations for misspelling or 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 Semifinals are tied for the same place.

Rule 3: Semifinals Format

The Semifinals is the second of three distinct segments of the competition: Preliminaries, Semifinals and Championship Finals.

The Semifinals consists of a test (Semifinals Test) delivered by computer on Wednesday evening, May 29 and two rounds of oral spelling onstage on Thursday, May 30. Spellers may earn up to 36 points during the Semifinals: up to 30 points on the Semifinals Test, three points for correctly spelling in Round Five and three points for correctly spelling in Round Six.

Spellers must report to Chesapeake Room G in the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center for the Semifinals Test on Wednesday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m. EDT.

The Semifinals Test has four sections:

1. In Section A, the speller will spell 12 words using a computer keyboard. All 12 spellings count toward the speller’s Semifinals score and will be labeled “score spelling words” by Bee officials prior to May 28. Score spelling words are the same for all spellers. This part of the test will be labeled as Round Four.
2. In Section B, the speller will respond to 12 multiple-choice vocabulary questions. All 12 vocabulary responses will count toward the speller’s Semifinals score and will be labeled “score vocabulary questions” by Bee officials prior to May 28. Score vocabulary questions are the same for all spellers. This part of the test will also be labeled as Round Four.
3. In Section C, the speller will respond to one multiple-choice vocabulary question that will be labeled as a Round Five vocabulary question and, if correctly answered, count three points toward the speller’s Semifinals score. The speller’s Round Five vocabulary question will be unique to the speller.
4. In Section D, the speller will respond to one multiple-choice vocabulary question that will be labeled as a Round Six vocabulary question and, if correctly answered, count three points toward the speller’s Semifinals score. The speller’s Round Six vocabulary question will be unique to the speller.

During the morning of Thursday, May 30 the Bee will publicly identify the 12 score spelling words and the 12 score vocabulary questions on [spelling bee.com](http://spellingbee.com); also, the Bee will email individual speller Semifinals Test score reports to Semifinalist spellers and their parents.

Eliminations: There are no immediate eliminations for misspelling or providing an incorrect answer in the Semifinals Test. Upon incorrectly spelling a word in Round Five or Six, the speller is eliminated from the competition. Spellers eliminated during Round Five are tied for the same

place. Spellers eliminated during Round Six are tied for the same place. Immediately after Round Six a “maximum of 12” standard is applied to remaining spellers’ scores accrued during the Preliminaries and Semifinals. Spellers’ scores are plotted on a chart. Beginning at 72 on the chart, spellers at each consecutive scoring level are added until a sum of no more than 12 spellers has been attained. All remaining spellers are eliminated unless, in the course of applying the maximum of 12 standard, it appears that fewer than nine spellers will qualify for the Championship Finals: in this circumstance, spellers at the next consecutive scoring level (or levels) may be named as Championship Finalists if, in sole determination of Bee officials, there is sufficient time and word list content to accommodate additional spellers in the Championship Finals. All spellers eliminated after Round Six and before the start of the Championship Finals are tied for the same place.

Rule 4: Championship Finals Format

The Championship Finals is the third of three distinct segments of the competition: Preliminaries, Semifinals and Championship Finals.

The Championship Finals consist of rounds of oral spelling beginning with Round Seven and continuing until a champion is declared (or co- champions are declared).

All spellers who have not been eliminated from the competition spell one word in each round. Upon incorrectly spelling a word, 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.

Championship Words and Provision for Declaration of Co-Champions:

At the beginning of any round in which either two or three spellers remain, the pronouncer will move to the 25-word championship section of the word list. If a champion does not emerge in the course of administering these final 25 words, the remaining spellers will be declared co-champions. In the event that a round beginning with more than either two or three spellers ends with only one speller to begin the next and perhaps final round, the pronouncer will not move to the championship section at that point in the competition.

End-of-Bee Procedure: 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. If only one speller in a round spells 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 succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated winning word in this one-word round, the speller is declared the champion. 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.

Rule 5: Official Dictionary and Source of Words

Webster’s Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster, (*Webster’s Third*) is the final authority and sole source for the spelling of words; the primary source used to craft the pronunciations, definitions, and language origins for the Bee; and the only printed authority consulted by officials, as well as the sole source used during the Bee to verify the information in our prepared lists. If more than one spelling is listed for a word, any of these spellings will be accepted as correct if the following three criteria are met: (1) the pronunciations are identical, (2) the definitions are identical, and (3) the words are identified as being standard variants of each other. Spellings having temporal labels (such as archaic, obsolete), stylistic labels (such as *substand*, *nonstand*) or regional labels (such as *North*, *Midland*, *Irish*) which differ from main entry spellings not having these status labels will not be accepted as correct.

Rule 6: Time Constraints

During the Preliminaries and Semifinals Tests: Spellers are subject to a 45-minute time limit for taking the test, and can view a 45-minute countdown clock on screen as they take the test. If the 45-minute time period expires and the speller has not submitted the test, the test application will close and the speller’s responses on record at that time will be scored by Bee officials.

During oral spelling rounds in the Preliminaries, Semifinals and Championship Finals: The speller’s time at the microphone has a limit of 2 minutes. Time begins when the pronouncer first pronounces the word. For the first 1 minute and 15 seconds, the speller will have the benefit of viewing a monitor displaying a traffic light in green light mode. After 1 minute and 15 seconds, the monitor will show the traffic light graphic in yellow light mode and will also show the time clock as it counts down to the 30-second mark. At the 30-second mark, the monitor will show the traffic light graphic in red light mode and will also show a countdown of the remaining 30 seconds. The judges and pronouncer will not communicate with the speller during the final 30 seconds (red light mode). The judges will disqualify any speller who does not provide a complete spelling before the expiration of time (0 seconds in red light mode). If the judges and pronouncer need to discuss a competition-related matter while a speller is contemplating a word, they may pause the time clock, and they will inform the speller when they pause and resume the time clock.

Rule 7: Special Needs

The Bee strives to provide accommodation for spellers who have diagnosed medical conditions. All requests for accommodation of special needs should be directed in writing to the director of the Bee before May 1, 2013. The judges have discretionary power to amend spelling requirements on a case-by-case basis for spellers with diagnosed medical conditions.

Rule 8: Pronouncer's Role

The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in *Webster's Third*.

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, 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 *Webster's Third*. 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 6.

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 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee word list or *Webster's Third*.

Rule 9: Judges' Role

The judges listen carefully, 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 6. 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.

Pronouncer Errors: The judges compare the pronouncer's pronunciation with the diacritical markings in the word list. If the judges feel that the pronouncer's pronunciation does not match the pronunciation specified in the

diacritical markings, the judges will direct the pronouncer 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 nonsense sounds.

Speller activities that do not merit disqualification: The judges may not disqualify a speller (1) for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it, (2) for asking a question, or (3) for noting or failing to note the capitalization of a word, the presence of a diacritical mark, or the presence of a hyphen or other form or punctuation.

Rule 10: 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 judge. 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 8.

Misunderstandings: The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless (1) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation; (2) the pronouncer provided incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, or 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.

COMPETITION FLOW CHART

Computer-Based Test (Preliminaries)

Section A: 24 spelling words: 12 scored 1 point each
Section B: 24 vocabulary words: 12 scored 1 point each
Sections C & D: 1 vocabulary word each 3 points each

Tuesday morning, May 28

★ Earn up to 30 points for correct responses.

Misspell or provide incorrect responses

Advance to Round Two

Round Two (Preliminaries)

Wednesday morning, May 29 | ESPN3

★ Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

Misspell

and out

Round Three (Preliminaries)

Wednesday afternoon, May 29 | ESPN3

★ Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

Misspell

and out

Semifinals Threshold

Wednesday, approximately 5 p.m. May 29 | ESPN3

★ No more than 50 spellers will advance to Semifinals. (See Rule 2 on pages 4 and 5 for details.)

Do Not Meet Threshold

Out

Computer-Based Test (Semifinals)

Section A: 12 spelling words 1 point each
Section B: 12 vocabulary words 1 point each
Sections C & D: 1 vocabulary word each 3 points each

Wednesday evening, May 29

★ Earn up to 30 points for correct responses.

Misspell or provide incorrect responses

Advance to Round Five

**Round Five (Semifinals)
Thursday afternoon, May 30 | ESPN2**



Misspell



and out

★ Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

**Round Six (Semifinals)
Thursday afternoon, May 30 | ESPN2**



Misspell



and out

★ Spell correctly and earn 3 points in this round.

**Championship Finals Threshold
Thursday, approximately 5 p.m.
May 30 | ESPN2**



**Do Not Meet
Threshold**



Out

★ It's anticipated that no more than 12 spellers will advance to the Championship Finals. (See Rule 3 on pages 5 and 6 for details.)

**Rounds Seven and Higher
(Championship Finals)
Thursday evening, May 30 | ESPN**



Misspell



**and out, with
two exceptions:**

- 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.
- 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.



SPELL CORRECTLY

CHAMPION





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, *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster (*Webster's Third*). Bee rules state that *Webster's Third* 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 *Webster's Third*. 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 *Webster's Third*. Diacritical markings are symbols such as *ä* and *ŋ* 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?

Both the Preliminaries and Semifinals computer-based tests have a 45-minute limit. 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 *Webster's Third*) 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 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 and Semifinals are each three rounds with Rounds One and Four being computer-based tests. The Championship Finals begins with Round Seven but we simply don't know what the final round number of the Bee will be. 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 spelling through dawn on Friday morning.

13. Why at the end of the Bee do the screens count down from 25 after each speller spells? What happens if it reaches zero?

The screens count down from 25 to indicate that the pronouncer is offering words from the 25-word Championship Words section of the list. If a champion is not determined in the course of administering these final 25 words, Co-Champions will be declared.

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 and the 11 million others learned and spelled prior to this competition — words they will definitely see and use again such as *philanthropy*, *imperative*, *amenable* and *serendipity*. As for those incredibly difficult words, they're out there — in great words of literature, guide books, high school and college textbooks and other great places — and 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 Semifinals?

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:



| PRELIMINARIES SCORE | NUMBER OF SPELLERS ACHIEVING THIS SCORE | CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF SPELLERS AT OR ABOVE THIS SCORING LEVEL |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 36 | 2 | 2 |
| 35 | 3 | 5 |
| 34 | 8 | 13 |
| 33 | 12 | 25 |
| 32 | 19 | 44 |
| 31 | 18 | 62 |
| 30 | 23 | 85 |
| 29 | 17 | 102 |



remainder of this sample scoring distribution table not shown

No more than 50 spellers will make it to the Semifinals. In this example, the Semifinals 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 Semifinals.

17. How many spellers usually qualify for the Semifinals?

Looking back over the past five Bees, in 2012 50 spellers qualified for the Semifinals. In 2011, it was 41; 2010: 48; 2009: 41; and 2008: 45.



18. How does the Bee decide who makes it to the Championship Finals?

This formula is similar to the one used for the Semifinals. Let's suppose that 28 spellers remain in the Bee at the end of Round Six. Each of the 28 spellers has a Preliminaries score — points earned in the Preliminaries Test and Rounds Two and Three; also, a Semifinals score — points earned in the Semifinals Test and Rounds Five and Six. Immediately after Round Six, a speller's Preliminaries score and Semifinals score are added together. The highest possible cumulative Preliminaries and Semifinals score a speller can earn is 72. Now let's suppose that the scoring distribution for the 28 spellers looks like this:

| CUMULATIVE PRELIMINARIES AND SEMIFINALS SCORE | NUMBER OF SPELLERS ACHIEVING THIS SCORE | CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF SPELLERS AT OR ABOVE THIS SCORING LEVEL |
|---|---|--|
| 72 | 0 | 0 |
| 71 | 1 | 1 |
| 70 | 1 | 2 |
| 69 | 2 | 4 |
| 68 | 4 | 8 |
| 67 | 2 | 10 |
| 66 | 1 | 11 |
| 65 | 0 | 11 |
| 64 | 2 | 13 |
| 63 | 1 | 14 |
| 62 | 5 | 19 |

remainder of this sample scoring distribution table not shown

It is anticipated that no more than 12 spellers will make it to the Championship Finals. In this example, the Championship Finals scoring threshold is 65. All spellers who achieved a cumulative Preliminaries and Semifinals score of at least 65 — in this sample case, it's 11 spellers — qualify for the Championship Finals.

19. How many spellers usually qualify for the Championship Finals?

Looking back over the past five Bees, in 2012 nine spellers qualified. In 2011, it was 13; 2010: 8; 2009: 11; and 2008: 12.

20. How does the Bee rank spellers as they exit the competition?

Here is a summary:

| TIMING OF COMPETITION EXIT | RANK |
|---|--|
| Misspell in Round Two | number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Two + 1 |
| Misspell in Round Three | number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Three + 1 |
| In Bee at the end of Round Three but do not qualify for the Semifinals | number of Semifinalists + 1 |
| Misspell in Round Five | number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Five + 1 |
| Misspell in Round Six | number of spellers in Bee at the end of Round Six + 1 |
| In Bee at the end of Round Six but do not qualify for the Championship Finals | number of Championship Finalists + 1 |
| Misspell and are eliminated during the Championship Finals | number of spellers spelling in the round occurring immediately after the round in which speller was eliminated + 1 |



STATISTICS: THIS YEAR

| Age | Total | Percent |
|-----|-------|---------|
| 8 | 1 | 0.4% |
| 10 | 8 | 2.9% |
| 11 | 21 | 7.5% |
| 12 | 65 | 23.1% |
| 13 | 110 | 39.1% |
| 14 | 76 | 27.0% |

| Grade | Total | Percent |
|-------|-------|---------|
| 3 | 1 | 0.4% |
| 4 | 2 | 0.7% |
| 5 | 13 | 4.6% |
| 6 | 43 | 15.3% |
| 7 | 93 | 33.1% |
| 8 | 129 | 45.9% |

| School Type | Total | Percent |
|-------------|-------|---------|
| Public | 178 | 63.4% |
| Private | 54 | 19.2% |
| Home | 25 | 8.9% |
| Parochial | 15 | 5.3% |
| Charter | 9 | 3.2% |

Siblings
 Forty-nine spellers are only children. The remaining 232 have a combined 454 siblings (212 brothers and 242 sisters). And four spellers — 8, 128, 155 and 222 — have six siblings.

Nine spellers have a fraternal twin — spellers 60, 73, 105, 117, 133, 234, 238, 251 and 261.

Family Ties
 Eighteen spellers have at least one relative who has competed in previous national finals. They are spellers 16, 43, 62, 71, 91, 98, 102, 107, 119, 127, 177, 190, 191, 226, 236, 243, 246 and 276. Speller 91 Vanya Shivashankar's sister, Kavya, won in 2009 and speller 191 Ashwin Veeramani's sister, Anamika, won in 2010.

134 Boys 47.7%
147 Girls 52.3%

Number of Spellers:
281

Five-Year Repeaters

- 48 Rachael Cundey
- 93 Emily Keaton

Four-Year Repeaters

- 39 Grace Remmer
- 115 Amber Born
- 156 Sriram J. Hathwar
- 163 Arvind V. Mahankali
- 238 Chetan G. Reddy

Three-Year Repeaters

- 36 Anuk Dayaprema
- 60 Lucas Michael Urbanski
- 61 Yasir Hasnain
- 64 Pranav Sivakumar
- 73 Joseph Kirkpatrick

- 83 Margaret Flaherty Peterson
- 91 Vanya Shivashankar
- 97 Caleb Miller
- 179 Hunter Randolph
- 225 Isabella Mika Neubauer
- 255 Jared Ward
- 256 Vismaya J. Kharkar
- 268 Shayley Martin

Two-Year Repeaters

- 18 Isabel Cholbi
- 28 Katharine S. Wang
- 29 Eva Kitlen
- 35 Donovan T. Rolle
- 41 Christal Schermeister
- 44 Nikitha Chandran
- 63 Christopher P. Rademacher
- 67 Sophie Bergman

- 76 Aaron Michael Manning
- 77 Kaelyn Reigh Bender
- 87 Joshua N. Kalyanapu
- 95 Nickolas Day
- 109 Michelle Beaulieu
- 110 Christian Thomas Kincaid
- 112 Sydney Christley
- 125 Kuvam Nirad Shahane
- 126 Hannah Jackson
- 129 Emma Greenlee
- 135 Faaris I. Khan
- 142 Gokul Venkatachalam
- 148 Ebosemhen I. Eigbe
- 150 Kenneth O. Gonzalez
- 151 Carson Monks
- 165 Philip Andrew Cummings
- 166 Nicholas Manfred
- 168 Dylan J. O'Connor

- 175 Katie M. Danis
- 189 Manu U. Nair
- 190 Joseph Cusi Delamerced
- 196 Iram M. Kingson
- 201 Rebekah Stanhope
- 203 Max Lee
- 204 Richelle M. Zampella
- 229 Nicole C. Frische
- 230 Jasmine S. Brandt
- 231 Rahul S. Krishnaswamy
- 235 Kate Miller
- 237 Victoria Epstein
- 257 Ronan Howlett
- 258 Luke A. Thornburgh
- 260 Madison Skye Fuentes
- 266 Jae Canetti
- 274 Jonah Gunter

STATISTICS: PREVIOUS YEARS

2012 Top Finishers



Ranked 1st
Snigdha Nandipati, *U-T San Diego*,
San Diego, California



Ranked 2nd
Stuti Mishra, *Orlando Sentinel*,
Orlando, Florida



Ranked 3rd
Arvind Mahankali, *Daily News*,
New York, New York*

Ranked 4th

Gifton Wright, *Jamaica Gleaner*, Kingston, Jamaica
Nicholas Rushlow, *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*, Lancaster, Ohio
Lena Greenberg, *The Philadelphia Tribune*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ranked 7th

Frank Cahill, *The Denver Post*, Denver, Colorado

Ranked 8th

Jordan Hoffman, Jackson County Spelling Bee Collaborative, Kansas City, Missouri
Emma Ciereszynski, *New Hampshire Union Leader*, Manchester, New Hampshire

Ranked 10th

Sumaita Mulk, Arizona Educational Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona
Jennifer Mong, *The Telegram*, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
Vaidya Govindarajan, *The Miami Herald*, Miami, Florida
Rachael Cundey, *The Augusta Chronicle*, Augusta, Georgia*
Simola Nayak, Georgia Association of Educators, Tucker, Georgia
Gina Solomito, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana
Vanya Shivashankar, *The Olathe News*, Olathe, Kansas*
Kavyapranati Pratapa, Willow Run Community Schools, Ypsilanti, Michigan
Gokul Venkatachalam, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, St. Louis, Missouri*
Nabeel Rahman, *The Buffalo News*, Buffalo, New York
Mark De Los Santos, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
Vismaya Kharkar, *The Valley Journals*, Salt Lake City, Utah*

| Year | Spellers | Rounds | Words | Repeaters |
|------|----------|--------|-------|-----------|
| 2012 | 278 | 13 | 723 | 72 |
| 2011 | 275 | 20 | 767 | 71 |
| 2010 | 273 | 9 | 683 | 56 |
| 2009 | 293 | 16 | 760 | 69 |
| 2008 | 288 | 16 | 603 | 57 |
| 2007 | 286 | 13 | 638 | 56 |
| 2006 | 274 | 20 | 628 | 66 |
| 2005 | 273 | 19 | 658 | 69 |
| 2004 | 265 | 15 | 567 | 59 |
| 2003 | 251 | 15 | 552 | 54 |
| 2002 | 250 | 11 | 480 | 54 |
| 2001 | 248 | 16 | 766 | 52 |
| 2000 | 248 | 15 | 839 | 51 |
| 1999 | 249 | 12 | 803 | 47 |
| 1998 | 249 | 11 | 733 | 43 |
| 1997 | 245 | 23 | 898 | 49 |
| 1996 | 247 | 13 | 799 | 43 |
| 1995 | 247 | 11 | 835 | 45 |
| 1994 | 238 | 15 | 968 | 41 |
| 1993 | 235 | 16 | 963 | 43 |

Ranked 22nd

Kevin Lazenby, Adventure Travel, Birmingham, Alabama
Siddharth Kulkarni, *San Francisco Chronicle*, San Francisco, California
Mignon Tsai, *The Vancouver Sun*, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Rahul Malayappan, Hearst Connecticut Media Group, Danbury, Connecticut
Grace Remmer, *The Florida Times-Union*, Jacksonville, Florida*
Christal Schermeister, *The Miami Herald*, Miami, Florida*
Simon Ricci, Chicago Spelling Bee Collaborative, Chicago, Illinois
Pranav Sivakumar, Lake County Regional Office of Education, Grayslake, Illinois*
Emma Steimle, *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, Topeka, Kansas
Emily Keaton, Kentucky Spelling Bee Collaborative, Louisville, Kentucky*
Jack Nolan, Howard County Library, Columbia, Maryland
Sanjana Malla, *The Record and Herald News*, Hackensack, New Jersey
Sruti Akula, *The Leader*, Corning, New York
Sunny Levine, *Akron Beacon Journal*, Akron, Ohio
Dharani Kotekal, *The Herald-Star*, Steubenville, Ohio
Vishnu Nistala, *The News-Herald*, Willoughby, Ohio
Max Lee, *The Vindicator*, Youngstown, Ohio*
Chetan Reddy, *The Dallas Morning News*, Dallas, Texas*
Abigail Spitzer, *El Paso Times*, El Paso, Texas
Jae Canetti, *Fairfax County Times*, Reston, Virginia*

*Competing in the 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee

CHAMPIONS AND THEIR WINNING WORDS



1925: gladiolus
Frank Neuhauser
Louisville Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

1926: cerise
Pauline Bell
Louisville Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

1927: luxuriance

Dean Lucas
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1928: albumen

Betty Robinson
South Bend News-Tribune
South Bend, Indiana

1929: asceticism

Virginia Hogan
The Omaha World-Herald
Omaha, Nebraska

1930: fracas

Helen Jensen
Des Moines Register & Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

1931: foulard

Ward Randall
White Hall Register-Republican
White Hall, Illinois

1932: knack

Dorothy Greenwalk
Des Moines Register & Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

1933: torsion

Alma Roach
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1934: deteriorating

Sarah Wilson
Portland Evening Press
Portland, Maine

1935: intelligible

Clara Mohler
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1936: interning
Jean Trowbridge
Des Moines Register & Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

1937: promiscuous
Waneeta Beckley
Louisville Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

1938: sanitarium
Marian Richardson
Louisville Times
Louisville, Kentucky

1939: canonical
Elizabeth Ann Rice
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Worcester, Massachusetts

1940: therapy
Laurel Kuykendall
The Knoxville News Sentinel
Knoxville, Tennessee

1941: initials
Louis Edward Sissman
Detroit News
Detroit, Michigan

1942: sacrilegious
Richard Earnhart
El Paso Herald-Post
El Paso, Texas

1946: semaphore
John McKinney
Des Moines Register & Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

1947: chlorophyll
Mattie Lou Pollard
Atlanta Journal
Atlanta, Georgia

1948: psychiatry
Jean Chappellear
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1949: dulcimer
Kim Calvin
Canton Repository
Canton, Ohio

1950: meticulousity
Diana Reynard
Cleveland Press
Cleveland, Ohio and
Colquitt Dean
Atlanta Journal
Atlanta, Georgia

1951: insouciant
Irving Belz
Memphis Press Scimitar
Memphis, Tennessee

1952: vignette
Doris Ann Hall
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem,
North Carolina

1953: soubrette
Elizabeth Hess
Arizona Republic
Phoenix, Arizona

1954: transept
William Cashore
Norristown Times Herald
Norristown, Pennsylvania

1955: crustaceology
Sandra Sloss
St. Louis Globe-Democrat
St. Louis, Missouri

1956: condominium
Melody Sachko
The Pittsburgh Press
Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania

1957: schappe
Sandra Owen
Canton Repository
Canton, Ohio

and Dana Bennett
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1958: syllepsis
Jolitta Schlehuber
Topeka Daily Capital
Topeka, Kansas

1959: catamaran
Joel Montgomery
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1960: eudaemonic
Henry Feldman
The Knoxville News Sentinel
Knoxville, Tennessee

1961: smaragdine
John Capehart
Tulsa Tribune
Tulsa, Oklahoma

1962: esquamulose
Nettie Crawford
El Paso Herald-Post
El Paso, Texas
and Michael Day
St. Louis Globe-Democrat
St. Louis, Missouri

1963: equipage
Glen Van Slyke III
The Knoxville News Sentinel
Knoxville, Tennessee

1964: sycophant
William Kerek
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

1965: eczema
Michael Kerpan, Jr.
Tulsa Tribune
Tulsa, Oklahoma

1966: ratoon
Robert A. Wake
Houston Chronicle
Houston, Texas

1967: Chihuahua
Jennifer Reinke
The Omaha World-Herald
Omaha, Nebraska

1968: abalone
Robert L. Walters
The Topeka Daily Capital
Topeka, Kansas

1969: interlocutory
Susan Yoachum
Dallas Morning News
Dallas, Texas

1970: croissant
Libby Childress
Winston-Salem Journal & Sentinel
Winston-Salem,
North Carolina





1970: elucubrate

Jacques Bailly
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1971: shalloon

Jonathan Knisely
Philadelphia Bulletin
Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania

1972: macerate

Robin Kral
*Lubbock Avalanche-
Journal*
Lubbock, Texas

1973: vouchsafe

Barrie Trinkle
Fort Worth Press
Fort Worth, Texas

1974: hydrophyte

Julie Anne Junkin
*Birmingham
Post-Herald*
Birmingham, Alabama

1975: incisor

Hugh Tosteson
San Juan Star
San Juan, Puerto Rico

1976: narcolepsy

Tim Kneale
*Syracuse Herald
Journal-American*
Syracuse, New York

1977: cambist

John Paola
*The Pittsburgh
Press*
Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania

1978: deification

Peg McCarthy
The Topeka Capital-Journal
Topeka, Kansas

1979: maculature

Katie Kerwin
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1980: elucubrate

Jacques Bailly
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1981: sarcophagus

Paige Pipkin
El Paso Herald-Post
El Paso, Texas

1982: psoriasis

Molly Dieveney
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado



1983: Purim

Blake Giddens
El Paso Herald-Post
El Paso, Texas

1984: luge

Daniel Greenblatt
Loudoun Times-Mirror
Leesburg, Virginia

1985: milieu

Balu Natarajan
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

1986: odontalgia

Jon Pennington
The Patriot News
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

1987: staphylococci

Stephanie Petit
The Pittsburgh Press
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1988: elegiacal

Rageshree
Ramachandran
The Sacramento Bee
Sacramento, California

1989: spoliator

Scott Isaacs
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

1990: fibranne

Amy Marie Dimak
The Seattle Times
Seattle, Washington

1991: antipyretic

Joanne Lagatta
The Wisconsin State Journal
Madison, Wisconsin

1992: lyceum

Amanda Goad
The Richmond News Leader
Richmond, Virginia

1993: kamikaze

Geoff Hooper
The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

1994: antediluvian

Ned G. Andrews
The Knoxville News Sentinel
Knoxville, Tennessee

1995: xanthosis

Justin Tyler Carroll
The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

1996: vivisepulture

Wendy Guey
The Palm Beach Post
West Palm Beach, Florida

1997: euonym

Rebecca Sealfon
Daily News
New York, New York

1998: chiaroscurist

Jody-Anne Maxwell
Phillips & Phillips
Stationery Suppliers
Kingston, Jamaica

1999: logorrhhea

Nupur Lala
The Tampa Tribune
Tampa, Florida

2000: demarche

George Abraham Thampy
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
St. Louis, Missouri

2001: succedaneum

Sean Conley
Aitkin Independent Age
Aitkin, Minnesota

2002: prospicience

Pratyush Buddiga
Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

2003: pococurante

Sai R. Gunturi
The Dallas Morning News
Dallas, Texas

2004: autochthonous

David Scott Pilarski Tidmarsh
South Bend Tribune
South Bend, Indiana

2005: appoggiatura

Anurag Kashyap
San Diego Union-Tribune
San Diego, California

2006: Ursprache

Katharine Close
*Asbury Park
Press/Home News
Tribune*
Asbury Park, New
Jersey

2007: serrefine

Evan M. O'Dorney
*Contra Costa
Times*
Walnut Creek,
California

2008: guerdon

Sameer Mishra
Journal and Courier
Lafayette, Indiana

2009: Laodicean

Kavya Shivashankar
The Olathe News
Olathe, Kansas

2010: stromuhr

Anamika Veeramani
The Plain Dealer
Cleveland, Ohio

2011: cymotrichous

Sukanya Roy
Times Leader
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

2012: guetapens

Snigdha Nandipati
U-T San Diego
San Diego, California



MEET THE SPELLEBRITIES

Favorite Movies

1. The Harry Potter series
2. *The Hunger Games*
3. *The Avengers*
4. The Lord of the Rings series
5. *Les Misérables*

Favorite School Subjects

1. Math
2. English and Language Arts
3. Science
4. History
5. Social Studies

Favorite Foods

1. Pizza
2. Chicken
3. Steak
4. Spaghetti
5. Sushi

Favorite Musician

1. Taylor Swift
2. One Direction
3. Bruno Mars
4. Adele
5. Imagine Dragons

spell•e•bri•ty

noun: a person renowned for the ability to spell difficult words under pressure, bright lights and the adoring gaze of millions.

Ask for my autograph, because I'm a



Favorite Sports

1. Basketball
2. Soccer
3. Swimming
4. Tennis
5. Volleyball

Favorite Novels

1. J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series
2. Suzanne Collins's Hunger Games trilogy
3. Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians series
4. Rick Riordan's Heroes of Olympus series

Languages Spoken

English is not the first language of 34 spellers. Overall, 116 spellers speak or study a language other than English, including Arabic, Bengali, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Malayalam, Urdu, Tagalog, Tamil, Spanish, and Vietnamese. There are 29 different languages represented among our spellers.

Favorite Board Games

1. Monopoly
2. Chess
3. Scrabble
4. Life
5. Sorry!

This year's competitors are all great spellers, but that's not all they do! Here is a brief look into the interests and accomplishments of the students competing to become the 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion.



2 Bryce Tasso

Two of Bryce's dogs raced this year, and he earned an award in a junior world championship sled dog race.



212 Ashraya Ananthanarayanan

Ashraya received a Compassionate Kid award from PETA and a Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award from People For Animals, India's largest animal welfare organization.



61 Yasir Hasnain

Yasir has been to four continents as part of his goal of visiting all seven.



113 Ina Lee Beinborn

Ina is a musician and performs with the New England Conservatory Friday Baroque Ensemble, Handel and Haydn Society Youth Chorus, and the Junior Classical League.



239 Olivia S. Weinbaum

Olivia has been a ballet dancer for eight years and has performed in the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet production of *The Nutcracker*.



251 Haeun Moon

Haeun plays the violin, placed first in the American Protégé International Concerto Competition and performed at Carnegie Hall in March.



258 Luke A. Thornburgh

Luke can solve a Rubik's cube in 48 seconds flat while standing still and can even do it in just 1 minute, 23 seconds while riding a bike.



274 Jonah Gunter

Jonah has been a professional actor since starring in a commercial at age five and has since appeared in a variety of musical theater productions.

SPELLERS AND SPONSORS

ALABAMA



1 Meghana Krishna Giri of Anniston is a 13-year-old eighth grader at The Donoho School. Her sponsor is Adventure Travel, Birmingham.

ALASKA



2 Bryce Tasso of Eagle River is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Eagle Academy Charter School. His sponsor is the *Anchorage Daily News*.

3 Katrina I. Miller of Delta Junction is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Whitestone Farms Training Center. Her sponsor is the *Daily News-Miner*, Fairbanks.



AMERICAN SAMOA

4 Tauloto Punipuaotui of Pago-Pago is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Leone Midkiff Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Samoa News*, Pago Pago.



ARIZONA

5 Christopher O'Connor of Tucson is a 13-year-old seventh grader at St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic School. His sponsor is the Arizona Educational Foundation, Scottsdale.



6 Samuel Yeager of Chinle is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Chinle Junior High School. His sponsor is the Navajo Times Publishing Company, Window Rock.



ARKANSAS

7 Chythanya Murali of Little Rock is a 12-year-old seventh grader at LISA Academy. Her sponsor is the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, Little Rock.



THE BAHAMAS

8 Danielle Charity Smith of Nassau is a 12-year-old eighth grader at St. John's College. Her sponsor is *The Nassau Guardian*.



CALIFORNIA

9 Osvaldo A. Sanchez of Bakersfield is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Emerson Middle School. His sponsor is KERO 23 ABC, Bakersfield.



10 Soleil Rosalinda Jones of Oxnard is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Juan Soria School. Her sponsor is the *Ventura County Star*, Camarillo.



11 Jillian G. Fusi of Imperial is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Ivy Junior High School. Her sponsor is the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro



12 Rebecca Baron of Granada Hills is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Chatsworth Hills Academy. Her sponsor is the Los Angeles Spelling Bee Collaborative.



13 Hannah Silvestro of Chino is a 12-year-old sixth grader at St. Margaret Mary School. Her sponsor is the Friends of the Diamond Bar Library, Pomona.



14 Clint Goodwin of Redding is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Boulder Creek School. His sponsor is the *Record Searchlight*, Redding.



15 Katie Peterson of Palm Desert is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Palm Desert Charter Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Press-Enterprise*, Riverside.



16 Aditya Mishra of Lincoln is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Excelsior Elementary School. His sponsor is *The Sacramento Bee*.



17 Cecilia Trujillo of Chualar is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Chualar Elementary School. Her sponsor is the Monterey County Office of Education, Salinas.



18 Isabel Cholbi of San Bernardino is an 11-year-old seventh grader at Cesar E. Chavez Middle School. Her sponsor is the San Bernardino Spelling Bee Collaborative.



19 Giabao Tonthat of Escondido is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Heritage K-8 Charter School. His sponsor is *U-T San Diego*.



20 Neha Konakalla of Cupertino is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Sam H. Lawson Middle School. Her sponsor is the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



21 Alan Shi of Irvine is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Sierra Vista Middle School. His sponsor is *The Orange County Register*, Santa Ana.



22 Zerine E. Wetzel of Fort Irwin is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Fort Irwin Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Daily Press*, Victorville.



23 Mitchell Kameha Miya of Hanford is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Pioneer Middle School. His sponsor is the *Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register*.



SPELLERS AND SPONSORS *continued*



24 Audrey M. Bantug of San Ramon is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Iron Horse Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Contra Costa Times*, Walnut Creek.



32 Anthony Constantine Capasso of Milford is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Hamden Hall Country Day School. His sponsor is the *New Haven Register*.



39 Grace Remmer of St. Augustine is a home-schooled 14-year-old eighth grader. Her sponsor is *The Florida Times-Union*, Jacksonville.



CANADA
25 Cassandra M. Clowe-Coish of St. John's is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Holy Cross Junior High. Her sponsor is *The Telegram*, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.



33 Keshav Ramesh of South Windsor is a 10-year-old fourth grader at Eli Terry Elementary School. His sponsor is the South Windsor Public Library.



40 Shayaan Syed Subzwari of Sunny Isles Beach is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Norman S. Edelcup Sunny Isles Beach K-8. His sponsor is *The Miami Herald*.



26 Mollie J. Symons of Kingston is a home-schooled 14-year-old eighth grader. Her sponsor is *The Chronicle Herald*, Halifax, Nova Scotia.



DELAWARE
34 Lillian E. Allingham of Wilmington is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Sanford School. Her sponsor is the Delaware Spelling Bee Collaborative, Wilmington.



41 Christal Schermeister of Pembroke Pines is a home-schooled 13-year-old eighth grader through HEARTS Home School Group. Her sponsor is *The Miami Herald*.



CHINA
27 Qingyi Wang of Beijing is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Beida Resource Middle School. His sponsor is Community Center Shanghai.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
35 Donovan T. Rolle of Washington is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Howard University Middle School for Math & Science. His sponsor is *The Washington Informer*.



42 Emma J. Parrish of Naples is a 14-year-old eighth grader at North Naples Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Naples Daily News*.



28 Katharine S. Wang of Beijing is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Qooco School. Her sponsor is Community Center Shanghai.



EUROPE
36 Anuk Dayaprema of Vicenza, Italy is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Vicenza Middle School, U.S. Department of Defense School. His sponsor is the European PTA.



43 Mary Elizabeth Horton of West Melbourne is a home-schooled 12-year-old seventh grader. Her sponsor is *Orlando Sentinel Communications*.



COLORADO
29 Eva Kitlen of Niwot is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Sunset Middle School. Her sponsor is Barnes & Noble, Boulder.



FLORIDA
37 Lee M. Wall of Lakeland is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Lakeland Christian School. His sponsor is the Polk County School District Collaborative, Bartow.



44 Nikitha Chandran of Valrico is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Brandon Academy. Her sponsor is the Tampa Bay Spelling Bee Collaborative, St. Petersburg.



30 Himanvi Kopuri of Denver is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Hamilton Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Denver Post*.



38 Aleena Bobby of Fort Myers is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Lexington Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Daily News*, Bonita Springs.



45 Tarun Neelavannan of Stuart is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Dr. David L. Anderson Middle School. His sponsor is Treasure Coast Newspapers, Stuart.



CONNECTICUT
31 Abram Mikhaeel Goda of Bridgeport is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Multicultural Magnet School. His sponsor is Hearst Connecticut Media Group, Danbury.



46 Anchita Khurana of Moultrie is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Scholars Academy. Her sponsor is the *Tallahassee Democrat*.



47 Brian E.B. Reinhart of Palm Beach Gardens is a 13-year-old seventh grader at The Weiss School. His sponsor is the Kiwanis Club of West Palm Beach.



ILLINOIS
55 Annie Schnoll of Chicago is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. Her sponsor is Chicago Public Schools.



63 Christopher P. Rademacher of Polo is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Aplington Middle School. His sponsor is *The Telegraph*, Dixon.



GEORGIA
48 Rachael Cundey of Evans is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Lakeside Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Augusta Chronicle*.



56 Richard J. Moraga of Wood Dale is a 14-year-old eighth grader at St. Pius X Parish School. His sponsor is Commonwealth Edison, Chicago.



64 Pranav Sivakumar of Tower Lakes is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Barrington Middle School - Station Campus. His sponsor is the Lake County Regional Office of Education, Grayslake.



49 Nicholas A. Poulos of Tucker is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Wesleyan School. His sponsor is the Georgia Association of Educators.



57 Meghana Kamineni of Lockport is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Homer Junior High School. Her sponsor is Commonwealth Edison, Chicago.



65 Isra Ansari of Bourbonnais is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center. Her sponsor is *The Daily Journal*, Kankakee.



GHANA
50 Rohit H. Sahijwani of Tema is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Delhi Public School. His sponsor is the Young Educators Foundation, Accra.



58 Alia Abiad of Western Springs is a 13-year-old seventh grader at McClure Junior High School. Her sponsor is Commonwealth Edison, Chicago.



66 Rebecca C. Lisk of Caledonia is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Keith Country Day School. Her sponsor is the Boone-Winnebago Regional Office of Education, Loves Park.



GUAM
51 Veronica A. Chua of Barrigada is a 13-year-old eighth grader at St. John's School. Her sponsor is the *Pacific Daily News*, Hagåtña.



59 Zander Patent of Chicago is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Latin School of Chicago. His sponsor is the Chicago Spelling Bee Collaborative.



67 Sophie Bergman of Bettendorf is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Morning Star Academy. Her sponsor is *The Dispatch* and *The Rock Island Argus*, Moline.



HAWAII
52 Akira S. Takabayashi of Lihue is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Chiefess Kamakahalei Middle School. His sponsor is aio, Honolulu.



60 Lucas Michael Urbanski of Crystal Lake is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Immanuel Lutheran School. His sponsor is the *Northwest Herald*, Crystal Lake.



68 Ram Koganti of Ottawa is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Wallace Grade School. His sponsor is the *Peoria Journal Star*.



IDAHO
53 Tricia B. McCullough of Coeur d'Alene is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Canfield Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Coeur d'Alene Press*.



61 Yasir Hasnain of Forsyth is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Maroa Forsyth Middle School. His sponsor is the *Herald & Review*, Decatur.



69 Piper Wynne Winkler of Geneva is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Elgin Academy. Her sponsor is the *Kane County Chronicle*, St. Charles.



54 Erin M. Sellers of Weippe is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Timberline Schools. Her sponsor is the *Lewiston Tribune*.



62 Matthew P. Rogers of Sycamore is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Sycamore Middle School. His sponsor is the *Daily Chronicle*, DeKalb.



70 Kyle Campbell of Riverton is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Riverton Middle School. His sponsor is *The State Journal-Register*, Springfield.

SPELLERS AND SPONSORS continued



71 Ashtyn Emily Folgers of Rock Falls is a 14-year-old eighth grader at East Coloma School. Her sponsor is *The Daily Gazette*, Sterling.



72 Cecilia P. Guerrero of Lanark is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Eastland Middle School. Her sponsor is the Carroll/JoDavies/Stephenson Regional Office of Education, Stockton.



INDIANA

73 Joseph Kirkpatrick of Anderson is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Highland Middle School. His sponsor is *The Herald Bulletin*, Anderson.



74 Mary Geneve Skirvin of Nashville is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Brown County Junior High School. Her sponsor is Indiana University, Bloomington.



75 Selena Qian of Carmel is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Clay Middle School. Her sponsor is Williams Comfort Air, Carmel.



76 Aaron Michael Manning of Evansville is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Plaza Park International Prep Academy. His sponsor is the *Evansville Courier & Press*.



77 Kaelyn Reigh Bender of Albion is a 14-year-old eighth grader at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School. Her sponsor is *The Journal Gazette*, Fort Wayne.



78 Cy Orentlicher of Indianapolis is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis. His sponsor is Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.



79 Minka Gill of Kokomo is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Western Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Kokomo Tribune*.



80 Ted Tobias of Wheatfield is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Kankakee Valley Middle School. His sponsor is the *Journal and Courier*, Lafayette.



81 Madison A. Jones of Gas City is a 13-year-old eighth grader at R.J. Baskett Middle School. Her sponsor is Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion.



82 Isaac R. McKee of Muncie is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Heritage Hall Christian School. His sponsor is *The Star Press*, Muncie.



83 Margaret Flaherty Peterson of Granger is a home-schooled 13-year-old seventh grader. Her sponsor is the *South Bend Tribune*.



84 Kimmie Collins of Terre Haute is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Woodrow Wilson Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Tribune-Star*, Terre Haute.



85 Sean K. Ives of Crown Point is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Trinity Lutheran School. His sponsor is Kankakee Valley REMC, Wanatah.



IOWA

86 Zander Reed of Ankeny is a home-schooled 10-year-old fifth grader through Ames Home School Assistance Program. His sponsor is Iowa State University, Greenlee School of Journalism & Communication, Ames.



87 Joshua N. Kalyanapu of Asbury is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Tri-State Christian School. His sponsor is the *Telegraph Herald*, Dubuque.



JAMAICA

88 Christian J.D. Allen of Kingston is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Ardenne High School. His sponsor is the *Jamaica Gleaner*, Kingston.



JAPAN

89 Daichi Hayakawa of Sunto-Gun Nagaizumityou is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Katoh Gakuen Gyoshu Elementary School. His sponsor is *The Japan Times*, Tokyo.



KANSAS

90 Sterling A. Hollond of Linwood is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Basehor-Linwood Middle School. His sponsor is the *Hays Daily News*.



91 Vanya Shivashankar of Olathe is an 11-year-old sixth grader at California Trail Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Olathe News*.



92 Gracie Elizabeth Schroeder of Salina is an 11-year-old fifth grader at Salina Christian Academy. Her sponsor is *The Topeka Capital-Journal*.



KENTUCKY

93 Emily Keaton of Pikeville is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Christ Central School. Her sponsor is the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center, Lexington.



94 Tara R. Singh of Louisville is an 8-year-old third grader at Louisville Classical Academy. Her sponsor is the Kentucky Spelling Bee Collaborative, Louisville.

LOUISIANA



95 Nickolas Day of Baton Rouge is a 14-year-old seventh grader at Parkview Baptist School. His sponsor is Louisiana Children's Discovery Center, Hammond.



96 Damien John Handy of Lafayette is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Scott Middle School. His sponsor is the Kiwanis Club of Lafayette.



97 Caleb Miller of Calhoun is a home-schooled 13-year-old eighth grader. His sponsor is *The News-Star*, Monroe.



98 Robert Frederick Cerise of New Orleans is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Stuart Hall School for Boys. His sponsor is *The Times-Picayune*, New Orleans.



99 Safa Michigan of Shreveport is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Caddo Middle Magnet. Her sponsor is Alliance For Education, Shreveport.

MAINE



100 Lowell Ruck of Orono is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Orono Middle School. His sponsor is Husson University, Bangor.



101 Brandon Aponte of Brooklin is a home-schooled 12-year-old seventh grader through Downeast Home School Co-op. His sponsor is the *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram*.



MARYLAND
102 Robin Taylor Roper of Arnold is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Severn River Middle School. Her sponsor is the 21st Century Education Foundation, Annapolis.



103 Abby Pepin of Monkton is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Salem Christian School. Her sponsor is Learn It Systems, Baltimore.



104 Calvin Liu of Rockville is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Takoma Park Middle School. His sponsor is The Meakem Group, Bethesda.



105 Jared R. Remsberg of Knoxville is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Brunswick Middle School. His sponsor is the Frederick County Public Library, Brunswick.



106 Mitsuki Ota of Columbia is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Columbia Academy Elementary and Middle School. His sponsor is the Howard County Library, Columbia.



107 Jade S. Lee of Hagerstown is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Smithsburg Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Herald-Mail*, Hagerstown.



108 Gabriela N. Rodriguez-Garcia of Clinton is a home-schooled 13-year-old eighth grader through Christian Home Educating Families. Her sponsor is *The Gazette & The Star*, Laurel.



109 Michelle Beaulieu of Callaway is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Spring Ridge Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Enterprise*, Lexington Park.



110 Christian Thomas Kincaid of Owings is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Windy Hill Middle School. His sponsor is *The Recorder*, Prince Frederick.



111 Khaled Mohamed of Salisbury is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Bennett Middle School. His sponsor is the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne.



112 Sydney Christley of White Plains is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Matthew A. Henson Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Maryland Independent*, Waldorf.



MASSACHUSETTS
113 Ina Lee Beinborn of Boston is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Boston Latin School. Her sponsor is the Boston Centers for Youth & Families.



114 Meryl Warpula of Leominster is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Sky View Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Sentinel & Enterprise*, Fitchburg.



115 Amber Born of Marblehead is a home-schooled 14-year-old eighth grader. Her sponsor is *The Daily Item*, Lynn.



116 Matthew Richard Donohue of Kingston is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Silver Lake Regional Middle School. His sponsor is Comcast, Taunton.



117 Alexis J. Condon of Edgartown is an 11-year-old sixth grader at The Edgartown School. Her sponsor is *The Martha's Vineyard Times*, Vineyard Haven.

SPELLERS AND SPONSORS continued



MICHIGAN

118 James Sun of Canton is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Achieve Charter Academy. His sponsor is *The Detroit News*.



119 Katie Walstra of Grand Rapids is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Legacy Christian School. Her sponsor is the Kent Intermediate School District, Grand Rapids.



120 Shannon Nicole Nulf of Hancock is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Hancock Middle School. Her sponsor is the Upper Peninsula Spelling Bee Collaborative, Iron Mountain.



121 Adrienne Fisher of Jackson is a 14-year-old eighth grader at R.W. Kidder Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Jackson Citizen Patriot*.



122 Neha Seshadri of Imlay City is a home-schooled 12-year-old eighth grader through F.A.I.T.H. Home School. Her sponsor is *The County Press*, Lapeer.



123 Marguerite Arbogast of Ludington is a 13-year-old seventh grader at O.J. DeJonge Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Ludington Daily News*.



124 Gurjiwan Singh Chahal of Shelby Township is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Shelby Junior High School. His sponsor is *The Macomb Daily*.



125 Kuvam Nirad Shahane of Rochester Hills is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Van Hoosen Middle School. His sponsor is *The Oakland Press*, Pontiac.



126 Hannah Jackson of Midland is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy. Her sponsor is the Saginaw Independent School District.



127 Daniel Hsin-Chuan Chi of Berrien Springs is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Berrien Springs Middle School. His sponsor is *The Herald Palladium*, St. Joseph.



128 Charlie Francis Donahue of Traverse City is a 14-year-old eighth grader at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School. His sponsor is the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.



MINNESOTA

129 Emma Greenlee of Aurora is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Mesabi East High School. Her sponsor is the Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Fergus Falls.



130 Jacob A. Lahti of Little Canada is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Parkview Center School. His sponsor is Augsburg College, Minneapolis.



131 Nicholas J. Thompson of Lonsdale is a 14-year-old eighth grader at New Prague Middle School. His sponsor is the South Central Service Cooperative, North Mankato.



132 Christine Farnberg of Rochester is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Holy Spirit Catholic School. Her sponsor is the Southeast Service Cooperative, Rochester.



133 Adam Kleist of Brainerd is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Forestview Middle School. His sponsor is the National Joint Powers Alliance, Staples.



MISSISSIPPI

134 Desiree Roby of Clinton is a home-schooled 11-year-old sixth grader through Christian Home Educators Connection. Her sponsor is the Mississippi Association of Educators, Jackson.



MISSOURI

135 Faaris I. Khan of Columbia is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Ann Hawkins Gentry Middle School. His sponsor is the *Columbia Daily Tribune*.



136 Evan Filer of Harrisonville is a 10-year-old fifth grader at McEowen Elementary School. His sponsor is the *Cass County Democrat Missourian*, Harrisonville.



137 Meah N. Wilburn of Lee's Summit is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Highland Park Elementary School. Her sponsor is the Jackson County Spelling Bee Collaborative, Kansas City.



138 Jade Ray Samanta of Cape Girardeau is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Trinity Lutheran School. His sponsor is Three Rivers Community College, Poplar Bluff.



139 Joshua Sturgill of Sedalia is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Sedalia Middle School. His sponsor is the Sedalia Spelling Bee Collaborative.



140 Ethan James Talbot of Lebanon is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Lebanon Junior High School. His sponsor is the College of Arts and Letters - Missouri State University, Springfield.



141 Sakif Islam of Maryville is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Maryville Middle School. His sponsor is the *St. Joseph News-Press*.



142 Gokul Venkatachalam of Chesterfield is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Parkway West Middle School. His sponsor is the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.



MONTANA
143 Jackson S. Hall of Billings is a home-schooled 13-year-old eighth grader through Yellowstone Coalition of Home Educators. His sponsor is Lee Newspapers of Montana, Billings.



NEBRASKA
144 Antonio Vince Miguel Arellano Lansang of Neligh is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Neligh-Oakdale Public School. His sponsor is the *Omaha World-Herald*.



NEVADA
145 Amna Raza of Las Vegas is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Omar Haikal Islamic Academy. Her sponsor is the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
146 Hannah V. Miller of Concord is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Rundlett Middle School. Her sponsor is the *New Hampshire Union Leader*, Manchester.



NEW JERSEY
147 Nandi Raisa Cook-Creek of Blackwood is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Glen Landing Middle School. Her sponsor is the Camden Spelling Bee Collaborative.



148 Eboseremhen I. Eigbe of Galloway is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Galloway Township Middle School. His sponsor is the South Jersey Spelling Bee Collaborative, Galloway.



149 Indrani Das of Oradell is a 13-year-old eighth grader at River Dell Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Record* and *Herald News*, Hackensack.



281 Roshni R. Kainthan of Morris Plains is a 10-year-old fourth grader at Littleton Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Record* and *Herald News*, Hackensack.



150 Kenneth O. Gonzalez of Union City is a 12-year-old seventh grader at St. Francis Academy. His sponsor is the Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Jersey City.



151 Carson Monks of Montague is a home-schooled 13-year-old seventh grader. His sponsor is the Tri-State Spelling Bee Committee, Montague.



152 Orli Weiss of Ocean is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Solomon Schechter Day School. Her sponsor is the *Asbury Park Press/Home News Tribune*, Neptune.



NEW MEXICO
153 Ariel Kokoricha of Clovis is a 10-year-old fifth grader at Clovis Christian School. Her sponsor is *The Albuquerque Journal*.



NEW YORK
154 Ryan Devanandan of Albany is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Sand Creek Middle School. His sponsor is the *Times Union*, Albany.



155 Madeline McCoy of West Falls is a home-schooled 13-year-old seventh grader through Grace LEAH Home School. Her sponsor is *The Buffalo News*.



156 Sriram J. Hathwar of Painted Post is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Alternative School for Math & Science. His sponsor is the Corning Rotary Club.



157 Abirami Ratnakumar of Seneca Falls is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Seneca Falls Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Finger Lakes Times*, Geneva.



158 Maggy X. Lambo of Gloversville is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Mayfield Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Leader-Herald*, Gloversville.



159 Isabelle Victoria Scott of East Setauket is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Paul J. Gelinis Junior High School. Her sponsor is Hofstra University, Hempstead.



160 Michael James of New Windsor is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Cornwall Central Middle School. His sponsor is the *Times Herald-Record*, Middletown.



161 Letia Jones of Mount Vernon is a 13-year-old seventh grader at A.B. Davis Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Mount Vernon Inquirer*.



162 Sai Vishudhi Chandrasekhar of Flushing is an 11-year-old sixth grader at The Anderson School. Her sponsor is the *Daily News*, New York.

SPELLERS AND SPONSORS *continued*



163 Arvind V. Mahankali of Bayside Hills is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School 74. His sponsor is the *Daily News*, New York.



164 Molly W. Youngs of Sidney is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Sidney Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Daily Star*, Oneonta.



165 Philip Andrew Cummings of Oswego is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Oswego Middle School. His sponsor is *The Palladium-Times*, Oswego.



166 Nicholas Manfred of Moriah is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Moriah Central School. His sponsor is the *Press-Republican*, Plattsburgh.



167 Maja J. Cannavo of Syracuse is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Manlius Pebble Hill School. Her sponsor is *The Post-Standard*, Syracuse.



168 Dylan J. O'Connor of Alexandria Bay is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Alexandria Central School. His sponsor is the *Watertown Daily Times*.



169 Chanya Renae Holness of White Plains is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Woodlands Middle School. Her sponsor is the Theodore D. Young Community Center, White Plains.

NORTH CAROLINA



170 Ryan B. Steed of Burlington is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Turrentine Middle School. His sponsor is the *Times-News*, Burlington.



171 Claire McCrea of Hickory is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Northview Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Charlotte Observer*.



172 Jesse Dartagnan Stephenson of Clayton is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Southside Christian School. His sponsor is the *Smithfield Herald*, Clayton.



173 Brian K. Werden of Hillsborough is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Charles W. Stanford Middle School. His sponsor is Duke University's Office of Durham and Regional Affairs.



174 Kaylee Kim of Fayetteville is a 10-year-old fifth grader at E. Melvin Honeycutt Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Fayetteville Observer*.



175 Katie M. Danis of Gastonia is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Gaston Day School. Her sponsor is *The Gaston Gazette*, Gastonia.



176 Alexander J. Schembra of Lillington is a 12-year-old fifth grader at Lillington-Shawtown Elementary. His sponsor is the Harnett County Spelling Bee Collaborative, Lillington.



177 Ethan Scott Wagner of Apex is a 13-year-old eighth grader at St. Michael the Archangel School. His sponsor is PAGE of Wake County, Raleigh.



178 Sarah Mounib of Rocky Mount is a 13-year-old eighth grader at J.W. Parker Middle School. Her sponsor is the Delta Center for Life Development, Inc., Rocky Mount.



179 Hunter Randolph of Sanford is a 14-year-old eighth grader at SanLee Middle School. His sponsor is PAGE of Lee County, Sanford.



180 Kaitlin Belle Venevongsoth of Kings Mountain is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Kings Mountain Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Shelby Star*.



181 Lauren Lim of Greenville is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Hope Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Washington Daily News*.



182 Matthew Griffin of Bailey is a home-schooled 12-year-old sixth grader. His sponsor is the *Wilson Daily Times*.



183 Daniel Taylor Mayo of Roxboro is an 11-year-old fifth grader at Bethel Hill Charter School. His sponsor is the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

NORTH DAKOTA



184 Taylor Roehl of New Leipzig is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Roosevelt Elementary School. Her sponsor is the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, Bismarck.

OHIO



185 Jeremy Lun of Orrville is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Dalton Intermediate School. His sponsor is the *Akron Beacon Journal*.



186 Kyle Schroeder of Hilliard is a 14-year-old eighth grader at St. Brendan School. His sponsor is Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication, Athens.



187 Matthew Vincent Pitcock of Zanesville is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Maysville Middle School. His sponsor is Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication, Athens.



188 Scott T. Markle of Massillon is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Lake Center Christian School. His sponsor is *The Repository*, Canton.



189 Manu U. Nair of Union, Kentucky, is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Gray Middle School. His sponsor is 9 On Your Side, Cincinnati.



190 Joseph Cusi Delamerced of Cincinnati is a 13-year-old seventh grader at The Summit Country Day School. His sponsor is 9 On Your Side, Cincinnati.



191 Ashwin Veeramani of North Royalton is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Incarnate Word Academy. His sponsor is *The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland.



192 Angela Marie Smith of Kettering is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Holy Angels School. Her sponsor is the *Dayton Daily News*.



193 Kaitlin Elizabeth Hall of Avon is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Avon Middle School. Her sponsor is the Educational Service Center of Lorain County, LaGrange.



194 Vincente Quach of Pickerington is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Harmon Middle School. His sponsor is the *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*.



195 Alotus Nguyen Wei of Lima is an 11-year-old fifth grader at Shawnee Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Lima News*.



196 Iram M. Kingson of Williamstown is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Williamstown High School. Her sponsor is *The Marietta Times*.



197 Justin Thomas Hamilton of Flushing is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Union Local Middle School. His sponsor is *The Times Leader*, Martins Ferry.



198 Sasha Davis of Washingtonville is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Leetonia Middle School. His sponsor is *Salem News*, *East Liverpool Review* and *The Morning Journal*.



199 Nathan James Keenan of Toronto is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Toronto High School. His sponsor is *The Herald-Star*, Steubenville.



200 Samantha L. Schofield of Maumee is an 11-year-old fifth grader at Fallen Timbers Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Blade*, Toledo.



201 Rebekah Stanhope of Kinsman is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Joseph Badger Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Tribune Chronicle*, Warren.



202 Olivia Havas of Painesville is a 13-year-old seventh grader at St. Gabriel School. Her sponsor is *The News-Herald*, Willoughby.



203 Max Lee of Canfield is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Canfield Village Middle School. His sponsor is *The Vindicator*, Youngstown.



OKLAHOMA
204 Richelle M. Zampella of Muskogee is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Oklahoma School for the Blind. Her sponsor is the Muskogee Spelling Bee Collaborative.



205 Cole Shafer-Ray of Norman is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Alcott Middle School. His sponsor is *The Oklahoman*, Oklahoma City.



OREGON
206 Divya Amirtharaj of Beaverton is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Meadow Park Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Portland Tribune*.



PENNSYLVANIA
207 Shreyas P. Parab of Aston is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Northley Middle School. His sponsor is *The Chester Spirit*.



208 Jacob George of Exton is a 12-year-old seventh grader at St. Norbert School. His sponsor is the Chester County Intermediate Unit, Downingtown.



209 Aditya Mohankumar Rao of Phillipsburg is a 12-year-old eighth grader at Lopatcong Township Middle School. His sponsor is *The Express-Times*, Easton.



210 Aparajita Rao of Hummelstown is a 12-year-old seventh grader at St. Joan of Arc School. Her sponsor is WITF: Public Media for Central Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.

SPELLERS AND SPONSORS continued



211 Hannah Michele Citsay of Lititz is a 13-year-old seventh grader at St. Anne School. Her sponsor is the *Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era*.



PUERTO RICO
219 Imanol A. Soler Navarro of Humacao is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Colegio Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro. His sponsor is the Commonwealth-Parkville School, San Juan.



226 Kalika Melody Burnett Bridwell of Woodruff is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Berry Shoals Intermediate School. Her sponsor is the *Herald-Journal*, Spartanburg.



212 Ashraya Ananthanarayanan of Collegeville is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Spring-Ford Intermediate School. Her sponsor is *The Times Herald*, Norristown.



RHODE ISLAND
220 Stephen A. Landry of Saunderstown is a 10-year-old fifth grader at Hamilton Elementary School. His sponsor is *The Valley Breeze*, Cumberland.



SOUTH DAKOTA
227 Max J. Oesterling of Custer is a home-schooled 13-year-old eighth grader through South Dakota Christian Home Educators. His sponsor is the University of South Dakota, Vermillion.



213 Anna Tran of Quakertown is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Strayer Middle School. Her sponsor is the Pennridge Community Education Foundation, Perkasie.



SOUTH CAROLINA
221 DeAria N. Phoenix of Allendale is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Allendale-Fairfax Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Allendale Sun*.



SOUTH KOREA
228 Hrishikesh Sanjay Srinivasan of Nam-gu is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Busan International Foreign School. His sponsor is Yoon's English School, Seoul.



214 Nina Kelly McManus of Philadelphia is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Christopher Columbus Charter School. Her sponsor is *The Philadelphia Tribune*.



222 Abel H. Birchfield of Clemson is a home-schooled 13-year-old seventh grader through Tri-County Home Educators. His sponsor is the *Anderson Independent Mail*.



TENNESSEE
229 Nicole C. Frische of Soddy-Daisy is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Loftis Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.



215 Natalie V. Cummings of Canonsburg is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Canonsburg Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



223 Owen John Duffy of Charleston is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Fort Johnson Middle School. His sponsor is *The Post and Courier*, Charleston.



230 Jasmine S. Brandt of Humboldt is a home-schooled 14-year-old eighth grader through West Tennessee Home Education Association. Her sponsor is *The Jackson Sun*.



216 Colleen M. Reed of Saint Clair is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Saint Clair Area Elementary / Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Republican Herald*, Pottsville.



224 Hunter Singletary of Scranton is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Hannah Pamplico Elementary/Middle School. His sponsor is the Pee Dee Education Center, Florence.



231 Rahul S. Krishnaswamy of Johnson City is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Ashley Academy. His sponsor is the *Knoxville News Sentinel*.



217 Emily M.X. Gunkel of Leesport is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Schuylkill Valley Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Reading Eagle*.



225 Isabella Mika Neubauer of Pawleys Island is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Lowcountry Preparatory School. Her sponsor is *The Sun News*, Myrtle Beach.



232 Elizabeth Rachel Dang of Cordova is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Lausanne Collegiate School. Her sponsor is *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis.



218 Grant W. Loose of Kingston is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Wyoming Valley West Middle School. His sponsor is the *Times Leader*, Wilkes-Barre.



233 Bates Bennett of Starkville is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Starkville Academy. His sponsor is *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis.



234 Jonathan Caldwell of Hendersonville is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Merrol Hyde Magnet School. His sponsor is the Middle Tennessee State University School of Journalism, Murfreesboro.



TEXAS

235 Kate Miller of Abilene is a home-schooled 13-year-old seventh grader through Big Country Home Educators. Her sponsor is the *Abilene Reporter-News*.



236 Sonia Chen of Amarillo is a 12-year-old seventh grader at David Crockett Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Amarillo Globe-News*.



237 Victoria Epstein of Corpus Christi is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Flour Bluff Junior High School. Her sponsor is the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*.



238 Chetan G. Reddy of Plano is a 13-year-old eighth grader at C.M. Rice Middle School. His sponsor is *The Dallas Morning News*.



239 Olivia S. Weinbaum of Las Cruces is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Lynn Middle School. Her sponsor is the *El Paso Times*.



240 Ansun Sujoe of Fort Worth is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Parkwood Hill Intermediate School. His sponsor is Texas Christian University, Fort Worth.



241 Shobha Dasari of Pearland is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Leon Sablatura Middle School. Her sponsor is HoustonPBS.



242 Syamantak Payra of Friendswood is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Westbrook Intermediate School. His sponsor is HoustonPBS.



243 Ryan Anthony Soriano of Laredo is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Harmony Science Academy - Laredo. His sponsor is the *Laredo Morning Times*.



244 Mikaela Mae Oliver of Brownfield is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Brownfield Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*.



245 Sean Wang of Rio Hondo is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Calvary Christian School. His sponsor is Rio Grande Valley AIM Media Texas, McAllen.



246 Gabrielle Marie Rubio of Midland is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Alamo Junior High School. Her sponsor is the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*, Midland.



247 Kara Paige Lehnert of Sweetwater is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Sweetwater Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Odessa American*.



248 Gabriella Renee Rodriguez of San Angelo is a 13-year-old seventh grader at San Angelo Christian Home School Association. Her sponsor is the *San Angelo Standard-Times*.



249 Swati Sharma of Boerne is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Saint Mary's Hall. Her sponsor is the *San Antonio Express-News*.



250 Colton A. Blinka of Port Lavaca is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Travis Middle School. His sponsor is the *Victoria Advocate*.



251 Haeun Moon of Woodway is an 11-year-old sixth grader at River Valley Intermediate School. Her sponsor is BBVA Compass Bank, Waco.



252 Kerri Lu of Wichita Falls is a 10-year-old sixth grader at Fowler Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Times Record News*, Wichita Falls.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS



253 Manav A. Thadani of St. Thomas is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Antilles School. His sponsor is *The Virgin Islands Daily News*, St. Thomas.



UTAH

254 Hannah Wentz Faulconer of Orem is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Lakeridge Junior High School. Her sponsor is the Utah Valley Spelling Bee, Lindon.



255 Jared Ward of Blanding is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Albert R. Lyman Middle School. His sponsor is the Southeast Education Service Center, Price.



256 Vismaya J. Kharkar of Bountiful is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Challenger School. Her sponsor is *The Valley Journals*, Salt Lake City.

SPELLERS AND SPONSORS *continued*



VERMONT

257 Ronan Howlett of Cornwall is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Middlebury Union Middle School. His sponsor is *The Burlington Free Press*.



266 Jae Canetti of Fairfax is an 11-year-old fifth grader at Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences. His sponsor is the *Fairfax County Times*, Reston.



274 Jonah Gunter of Leavenworth is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Icicle River Middle School. His sponsor is the North Central Washington Collaborative Spelling Bee, Wenatchee.



VIRGINIA

258 Luke A. Thornburgh of Purcellville is a home-schooled 13-year-old seventh grader. His sponsor is Loudoun County Public Schools, Ashburn.



267 Yashna Rajendra Nainani of Mechanicsville is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Chickahominy Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.



WEST VIRGINIA

275 Lauren Elizabeth Coccari of Charleston is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Sissonville Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Charleston Gazette-Mail*.



259 Sam T. Pereles of Waynesboro is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Kate Collins Middle School. His sponsor is *The News-Virginian* and *The Daily Progress*, Charlottesville.



268 Shayley Martin of Riner is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Floyd Elementary School. Her sponsor is *The Roanoke Times*.



276 Louis Aldridge of Bridgeport is a home-schooled 11-year-old fifth grader through Harrison County Home Schoolers. His sponsor is *The Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram*.



260 Madison Skye Fuentes of Danville is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Westover Christian Academy. Her sponsor is Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Danville.



269 Griffin T. McAvoy of North Tazewell is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Tazewell Middle School. His sponsor is the Tazewell County Fair Association.



277 Aarohi Srivastava of Morgantown is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Suncrest Middle School. Her sponsor is *The Dominion Post*, Morgantown.



261 Jessica Ditton of Stafford is a home-schooled 12-year-old sixth grader. Her sponsor is *The Free Lance-Star*, Fredericksburg.



270 Alicia Estefania Gonzalez of Winchester is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle School. Her sponsor is The Community Foundation of the Northern Shenandoah Valley, Winchester.



278 Lillian Taylor Bischof of Wheeling is a 12-year-old sixth grader at St. Michael Parish School. Her sponsor is *The Catholic Spirit*, Wheeling.



262 Kirtan Dharmendra Patel of Hampton is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Lindsay Middle School. His sponsor is the Hampton Literary Society.



271 Christopher D. Shoemaker of Manassas is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Grace E. Metz Middle School. His sponsor is *Prince William Today*, Leesburg.



WISCONSIN

279 Aisha Khan of Verona is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Spring Harbor Middle School. Her sponsor is the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.



263 Madeline Deidre Hall of Harrisonburg is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Wilbur Pence Middle School. Her sponsor is the Rockingham District Ruritans, Harrisonburg.



WASHINGTON

272 Trina Felizia-Alarkon Desquitado of Oak Harbor is an 11-year-old fifth grader at Broad View Elementary School. Her sponsor is the *Skagit Valley Herald*, Mount Vernon.



WYOMING

280 Victoria Allen of Green River is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Lincoln Middle School. Her sponsor is the Wyoming Community Foundation, Laramie.



264 Jensen Schram of Forest is a 13-year-old seventh grader at New Covenant Schools. Her sponsor is *The News & Advance*, Lynchburg.



273 Sophia Limacher of Seattle is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Lakeside Middle School. Her sponsor is Town Hall Seattle.



265 Kenneth Ross of Virginia Beach is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Kemps Landing Magnet School. His sponsor is *The Virginian-Pilot*, Norfolk.

Speller 281 appears on page 25 under New Jersey.



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 30 years, including 16 years as director.



Janice S. Liebenberg

Sponsorship and Operations Coordinator

Janice works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her seventh year with the program.



Abi C. Evans

Sponsorship and Operations Manager

Abi works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her third year with the program.



Sally McMMain

Sponsorship and Operations Coordinator

Sally works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her second year with the program.



Chris R. Kemper

Communications and Public Relations Manager

Chris works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is his first year with the program.



Laurie Morris

Editorial Coordinator

Laurie works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her first year with the program.



Corrie E. Loeffler

Program Manager

Corrie is serving her seventh year on the year-round staff after having served six years on Bee Week staff. She represented the *Merced Sun-Star* in the 1994, 1995 and 1996 national finals, tying for sixth place in 1996.



Nicole A. Dittoe

Sponsorship and Operations Assistant

Nicole works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her third year with the program.



Cybelle L. Weeks

Lead Program Manager

Cybelle works full-time for the program from The E.W. Scripps Company's corporate office. This is her 16th year with the program.



The E.W. Scripps Company

Rich Boehne

Rich is president, chairman and CEO of The E.W. Scripps Company.



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 11th 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 a parish in Lansing, 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 11th year as associate pronouncer.



Mary Brooks
Head Judge

Mrs. Brooks is a retired West Des Moines, Iowa, educator. She has served the program in various capacities for the past 42 years, including 26 years as a judge and five years as co-director.



Blake Giddens
Judge

Mr. Giddens is the 1983 national champion representing the *El Paso Herald-Post*. He is a professional engineer for a civil engineering firm in Fairfax, Virginia. This is his 13th year as a judge after having served five years as auxiliary judge and four years on staff.



Dr. Ed Low
Judge

Dr. Low is a professor emeritus of English at the Metropolitan State University of Denver. This is Dr. Low's 19th year as a judge of the national finals. He has served as a judge for Denver's spelling bee program for 25 years and for the *Daily Camera* (Boulder) spelling bee for 15 years.



George Thampy
Judge

Mr. Thampy is the 2000 national champion representing the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. He is an investor and associate at Concentric Equity Partners, a private equity firm in Chicago, Illinois. This is Mr. Thampy's second year as judge after having served six years on staff.

BEE WEEK



Andy Baker
Production Staff

Andy is director of IT infrastructure for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Mark Bowen
Photographer

Mark is a professional free-lance photographer in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Bryan Brandeberry
Production Staff

Bryan is a systems architect for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Julie Cornwell
Production Staff

Julie is a paralegal for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Gail Farwick
Production Staff

Gail is director of program management 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 manager of application development for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Mary Groene
Production Staff

Mary is a senior systems analyst for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Tracey Gustafson
Production Staff

Tracey is a search engine marketing manager for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

STAFF



Kara Hadge
Production Staff
 Kara is the head of digital media in the United States for the British Council in Washington, D. C. She represented *The Patriot Ledger* of Quincy, Massachusetts, in the 1999 and 2000 national finals.



Jeff Hassan
Production Staff
 Jeff is managing director for planning for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Kristin Hawkins
Production Staff
 Kristin graduated from the University of Virginia in 2009 and now works in Russia. Kristin represented the *Loudoun Times-Mirror* in the 1999, 2000 and 2001 national finals, placing second in 2001.



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



Robyn Hildal
Media Desk Manager
 Robyn is vice president of talent and diversity for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Derek Jones
Production Staff
 Derek is a manager of personal technology systems for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Arielle Kass
Production Staff
 Arielle is a business reporter for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in Atlanta, Georgia.



Mike Klawitter
Production Staff
 Mike is a manager of business applications for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Vagelis "V" Kontopos
Production Staff
 V is a senior manager of compensation for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Amy Lisak
Production Staff
 Amy is a systems analyst for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Chip Mahaney
Production Staff
 Chip is director of digital content for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Valerie Miller
Production Staff
 Valerie is corporate communications manager for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Kevin Moch
Production Staff
 Kevin is a second-year Ph.D. student 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.



Terri Mullikin
Production Staff
 Terri is an administrative assistant for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Bret G. Nealis
Production Staff
 Bret is a software engineer for Professional Consulting Services, Inc.



Bridget Nealis
Production Staff
 Bridget is a personal banker for Fifth Third Bank in Greensburg, Indiana.



Malorie Nealis
Production Staff
 Malorie Nealis is a student at The Ohio State University, studying marketing and nutrition.



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



Dan Perschke
Production Staff
 Dan is a director of finance for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Carole Rawlins
Production Staff
 Carole is a writer in the corporate communications department at The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Paul Riccobene
Production Staff
 Paul is a network architect for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Michele Roberts
Production Staff
 Michele is an administrative assistant for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Lee Rose
Production Staff
 Lee is director of human resources for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



David Taylor
Production Staff
 David is a senior personal technology systems specialist for The E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.



ABOUT SCRIPPS

The E.W. Scripps Company (www.scripps.com) delivers community-changing journalism and creates valuable marketing environments through television stations, newspapers and a growing menu of digital products and services.

Creative and mission-driven employees “give light so the people can find their own way” at 19 television stations in major U.S. markets and at newspapers in 13 markets.

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