



September 2024

Dear Principal and/or Spelling Bee Coordinator:

The 85th Annual Denver Post Colorado State Spelling Bee is right around the corner and we want to share this important information with you. **The date of the oral portion is still being finalized, it will take place on Saturday, March 8th, 2025 at Sturm Hall on the University of Denver Campus.** The champion of our State Bee will win an all-expense paid trip to compete in the **100th Anniversary of the Scripps National Spelling Bee** in the Washington D.C. area from May 25 – May 31, 2025.

The spelling and vocabulary portion of the State Spelling Bee will be administered online on Thursday, February 20, 2025. The top 15-20 spellers will advance to the oral rounds in March. Your State Qualifier(s) will take the online portion with a monitor overseeing the test taking. **(We request the monitor to be a teacher.)** Prior to the test, the student and monitor will sign an online Integrity Pledge.

For your School, District, or Regional Champion to participate in the online “written” portion of the State Bee, you will need to log in at spellingbee.com to fill out the School Champion Registration form. This form ensures your school champion is a recognized participant and can compete in the competition. **You will also need to return the attached State Spelling Bee Entry Form, along with a \$35 registration fee made payable to The Denver Post Community Foundation, to my attention so I can assign a test to the student. The deadline is Friday, February 14, 2025.** Please contact me at 303-954-2673 if you prefer to pay by credit card.

Once you have registered your Champion, the system will automatically create an online testing platform account for them, using the email address included in the **Parent #1 Email Address** field. If your School Champion already has an account for the online testing platform, please be sure the student’s name, grade level and parent #1 email address *exactly* match their existing account.

The Spelling and Vocabulary Online Test MUST be Taken on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025. There will be NO exceptions!

The State’s top spellers will be announced online at denverpostcommunity.com/spelling-bee by 3:00 p.m. Friday, February 21, 2025. Students in the Oral Rounds will be contacted by email and receive specific details and restrictions for the competition.

We believe that participation in spelling bees provides students with valuable life skills, not only with increasing their vocabulary and study habits, but with instilling confidence and poise to help them navigate through their lives. Please see below:

Please review, in detail, the following information necessary for State Spelling Bee participation:

- 1. In order for your students to participate in The Denver Post Colorado State Spelling Bee program, YOUR SCHOOL MUST FIRST enroll with the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Visit spellingbee.com for more information on fees and deadlines.***
- 2. Register your school champion speller(s) at spellingbee.com no later than Friday, February 14, 2025, to be eligible to take the online test.***
- 3. Once the Scripps enrollment and student registration is completed, please turn in the following Colorado State Spelling Bee entry form along with a \$35 registration fee (per speller) made payable to The Denver Post Community Foundation. The finalist’s school or family can pay this fee and send it to the address listed on the entry form. Forms must be received by February 14, 2025.***
- 4. As you may know, The Denver Post Colorado State Spelling Bee is a competitive program with more than 200 students from across Colorado vying for the championship.***

The State Spelling Bee is primarily for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students however, younger age groups may also participate. Public school students should participate in classroom-level contests and proceed through preliminary contests culminating at the district level. **Each DISTRICT may enter one student for each 2,500 or fraction thereof. The maximum number of students a district may enter is 25. Smaller school districts are encouraged to combine with each other for preliminary contests. We recommend that private schools hold combined preliminary spelling bees. If this is not possible, private schools may send one student per school. Home-school students should also participate in a preliminary competition. The Christian Home Educators Association coordinates a spelling bee for home school students – for more information on the Christian Home Educators Association’s Bee, please call (720) 842-4852.** The number of students eligible is based on the district’s K-12 enrollment, as listed in the Colorado Education Directory. Please contact your district office for further information on how your district selects students for the State Spelling Bee.

- **The speller MUST attend a school that is officially enrolled with the Scripps National Spelling Bee.**
- **The speller MUST NOT have passed beyond the 8th grade on or before February 1, 2025.**
- **The speller MUST NOT have reached his/her 15th birthday on or before August 31, 2025.**
- **The speller, their parents, educators, relatives, or acquaintances MUST NOT have obtained a copy of the 2025 School or District Pronouncer Guide for use in studying.**

Also please be aware that the pronouncer and judges will not entertain root word questions, and that the judges are in complete control of the competition. Their decision shall be final on ALL questions.

Enclosed is an entry form for the 2025 Colorado State Spelling Bee. Once students have completed participation in preliminary competitions, and have qualified for State, send the entry form to The Denver Post Community Foundation. As a reminder, **WE MUST HAVE ENTRY FORMS and registration fees paid by Friday, February 14, 2025**, in order for a speller’s test to be assigned to take on Thursday, February 20, 2025.

The Denver Post Colorado State Spelling Bee’s success depends on your support and that of many other public, private, and home schools across the state of Colorado. We appreciate your continued participation in this worthwhile academic program!

Please make copies of this information and distribute it to those who coordinate the spelling bee at your school. If you need additional information about The Denver Post Colorado State Spelling Bee, please contact me at (303) 954-2673 or email ccline@denverpost.com. You can also visit www.spellingbee.com for other items.

Sincerely,



Carol Cline
Administrative and Events Manager
The Denver Post Community Foundation

The Colorado State Spelling Bee is an event of The Denver Post Community Foundation which serves to improve and enrich the lives of those in our community through support of programs that benefit arts and culture, children and youth, education and literacy and the provision of basic human services. For more information on The Denver Post Community Foundation, visit www.denverpostcommunity.com or find us on Facebook or Twitter (@dpcommunity).