Panel of Judges

Ethna Lay, Head Judge; Associate Professor of Writing Studies and Composition and Associate Director of the Digital Research Center, Hofstra University

Jeffrey S. Morosoff, Pronouncer; Assistant Professor of Journalism, Media Studies, and Public Relations, Hofstra University

Yvonne Stephens, Record Keeper; Assistant Professor of Writing Studies and Composition, Hofstra University

Lisa M. Dresner, Ringer; Assistant Professor of Writing Studies and Composition, Hofstra University

Event Organizers

Melissa Connolly, Vice President for University Relations, Hofstra University

Johanna Farrell, Marketing Coordinator, Hofstra University

Colin Sullivan, Associate Director of Public Relations, Hofstra University

Special thanks to:

Dr. Herman A. Berliner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Lawrence Herbert Distinguished Professor, Hofstra University

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Merriam-Webster Inc.

Encyclopedia Britannica
Dear participants and families:

Welcome to Hofstra University for the fourth Hofstra Long Island Regional Scripps Spelling Bee. While one of you will earn the right to represent Long Island at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., this May, all of you should be proud of your participation here today.

You have all worked hard, studied long, and through friendly competition with your peers, won your school’s spelling bee. Before we spell one word today, you deserve our sincere congratulations on your achievement thus far. Winning a spelling bee requires poise, confidence, and the ability to perform under pressure. Participants learn about public presentation and how to operate in a competitive environment. Great spellers understand the origins of words and of language itself, how to puzzle through a problem word through meaning, inference and root, and through this, develop skills that will provide a great advantage as you prepare for the advanced work of high school and college.

Hofstra University is very proud to host Long Island’s regional bee. Through many academic partnerships, we bring Long Island’s best middle and high school students to our campus for events such as the Model United Nations, FIRST Robotics Competition, High School Dance Intensive and High School Press Day. We are pleased to have a strong partnership with our local schools.

Benjamin Disraeli said, “A University should be a place of light, of liberty, and of learning.” Our mission is to educate as well as engage our students, not only in scholarly pursuits, but also in the world around us, by sharing our great campus and our resources with our neighbors. You bring light and learning to us today, and we are so pleased to welcome you to Hofstra.

While only one of you will go on to represent Long Island in Washington, D.C., you are all winners. I wish you luck in the bee and in your academic and co-curricular work. I am sure you will be successful in all you do.

Sincerely,

Dr. Herman A. Berliner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Lawrence Herbert Distinguished Professor
Regional Scripps Participants

Academy Street Elementary School
Keara Schneck

Accompsett Middle School
Eunyale Cain Jr.

Archer Street Elementary School
Kiana Azcona

Babylon Junior Senior High School
Kaitlyn Tourin

Baldwin Middle School
Annemarie Uellendahl

Bayview Avenue School
Jasmine Bostick

Blue Point Elementary School
Stephanie Capitano

Bowling Green Elementary School
Jordan Soriano

Brandeis School
Leeor Sellouk

Brookside Elementary School
Kayla Bennett

Burns Avenue Elementary School
Kya Anthony

Burr Intermediate School
Ryan Dituro

California Avenue Elementary School
Keyala Williams

Carle Place Middle Senior High School
Adam Kwarren

Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School
Erick Aguilera

Charles E. Schwarting Elementary School
Jenny Colligan

Clara H. Carlson Elementary School
Tochi Ukegbu

Clayton Huey Elementary School
Leah Kilkenny

Clear Stream Avenue Elementary School
Anthony Nagamootoo

Connolly Elementary School
Amedea Cipriano
Regional Scripps Participants

Copiague Middle School
Carolina Gonzalez

Dayton Avenue Elementary School
Kimberly Cotrel

Dutch Lane Elementary School
Jason Jiang

East Islip Middle School
Victoria Keenan

East Northport Middle School
Daniel Myers

Eastplain School
Joseph Marchione

Eastport Elementary School
Alexi Flores

Edna Louise Spear Elementary School
William Wu

Fairfield Elementary School
Olivia Vandenberg

Floral Park Memorial Junior Senior High School
Joshua Nunez

Forest Road Elementary School
Kiefer Villarreiz

Gotham Avenue Elementary School
Nathan Moges

Grand Avenue Elementary School
David Collins

Grand Avenue Middle School
Quentin Johnson

Great Hollow Middle School
Jordynn Bozzo

Green Vale School
Marcus Meshechok

H. B. Thompson Middle School
Michael Wang

Hanc Plainview Elementary School
Rena Max

Hebrew Academy of Long Beach
Adina Roth

Herricks Middle School
Hannah Chu
Regional Scripps Participants

Steele Elementary School
Kira Russell

Stimson Middle School
Zachary Slansky

Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School
Jack Steel

Turtle Hook Middle School
Emily Long

Unqua Elementary School
Brendan Deneen

W. T. Clarke Middle School
Yuktha Chiguripati

Walnut Street Elementary School
Sebastian Vega

Wantagh Middle School
Jenna Miller

Watson Elementary School
Nicholas Tollefsen

West Side Elementary School
Jonathan Rush

Wheeler Avenue Elementary School
Michaela Sinclair

Willets Road Middle School
Krittika Prajapati

William E. Deluca Junior Elementary School
Justine Borgia

William Floyd Middle School
Matthew Flaherty

William Rall Elementary School
Shanjeda Uddin

William Sidney Mount Elementary School
George Kuhen

Willow Road Elementary School
Hannah Lee

Woodland Middle School
Shane Weiner
Preface

We encourage spellers, parents, teachers, and spelling bee officials to read these rules prior to any spelling bee.

These rules are guidelines designed to assist spelling bee officials and spellers at the local level. Spellers should check with their local spelling bee officials for the rules in effect in their area. Spelling bee officials include the pronouncer, judges, coordinator and sponsor.

While local spelling bee officials have the prerogative to amend Rules 2 through 11, amendments —particularly any amendments to the end-of-bee procedure — should be undertaken only with careful consideration of the various outcomes that may result from the amendments.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee has no authority over the conduct of local spelling bees (namely, spelling bees other than the Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, D.C.). Consequently, the national office will not render judgments relating to the conduct of local spelling bees. Individuals bearing complaints about the conduct of local spelling bees should register their concerns with local spelling bee officials. DECISIONS OF LOCAL SPELLING BEE OFFICIALS ARE FINAL.

These Rules for Local Spelling Bees are not the rules in effect at the Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, DC. When a local spelling bee official says, “We use the national rules,” he or she is probably indicating that the Rules for Local Spelling Bees are in effect.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, D.C. operates under a significantly different set of rules called the Contest Rules of the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee. These rules contain provisions that are specific to unique conditions at the event near Washington, D.C. Their successful implementation at the local level is considered impossible and therefore is not recommended.

Rules

1. Eligibility: A speller qualifying for the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, D.C. must meet these requirements:

   (1) The speller must not have won a Scripps National Spelling Bee championship near Washington, D.C.

   (2) The speller must attend a school that is officially enrolled with the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

   (3) The speller must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before February 1, 2015.

   (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 Scripps National Spelling Bee of the circumstances of grade repetition by March 31, 2015; and the Scripps National Spelling Bee will, at its sole discretion, determine the speller’s eligibility status on or before April 30, 2015.

   (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 or have been enrolled in more than six high school-level courses or two college-level courses on or before April 30, 2015.

   (8) The speller must not eschew normal school activity to study for spelling bees. The Scripps National Spelling 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 25, 2014, and May 16, 2015.
The spelling bee is conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells one word or answers one vocabulary question in each round — except in the case of a written, multiple choice, or online test. The spelling bee may be conducted orally or in writing or in a manner that is a combination of the two; however, if the spelling bee officials specify an oral format, the speller may not demand a written format except under the conditions of Rule 4.

3. Word list: Local spelling bee officials are responsible for selecting the word lists for use at each local spelling bee. Many local spelling bee officials use word lists generated by the Scripps National Spelling Bee. These lists include many words that appear in the current edition of Spell It! as well as some “end-of-bee” words. All words on Scripps National Spelling Bee word lists are entries in Webster’s Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster, the official dictionary of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

4. Special needs: Spelling bee officials will strive to provide accommodation for spellers who have physical challenges. All requests for spelling bee officials to accommodate special needs involving sight, hearing, speech, or movement should be directed to spelling bee officials well in advance of the spelling bee date. The judges have discretionary power to amend oral and/or written spelling requirements on a case-by-case basis for spellers with diagnosed medical conditions involving sight, hearing, speech, or movement.

5. Pronouncer’s role: The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in Scripps National Spelling Bee word lists.

In Oral Spelling Rounds:

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: The pronouncer responds to the speller’s requests for a definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin, and alternate pronunciation(s). When presented with requests for alternate pronunciations, the pronouncer or an aide to the pronouncer checks for alternate pronunciations in either Webster’s Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster or Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, eleventh edition. The pronouncer does not entertain root word questions, requests

The Scripps National Spelling Bee may disqualify prior to or during competition any speller who is not in compliance with any of its eligibility requirements; and it may — at any time between the conclusion of the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee and April 30, 2016 — require any speller who is found to have not been in compliance with any of the eligibility requirements to forfeit the prizes, rank, and other benefits accorded to the speller as a result of participation in the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

2. Format: The spelling bee is conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start
for alternate definitions, or requests for markedly slower pronunciation.

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 is presented in the entry for the word in a 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee word list.

In Oral Vocabulary Rounds:

Procedure: The pronouncer reads aloud the vocabulary question and both options (A) and (B), but does not indicate which is correct.

Homonyms: If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer indicates which word is in question by spelling the word aloud.

Speller’s requests: The pronouncer responds to the speller’s requests for the question and/or answer options to be repeated. The pronouncer may also provide the spelling of the word in question.

6. Judges’ role: The judges uphold the rules and determine whether or not words are spelled correctly or vocabulary items are answered correctly. They also render final decisions on appeals in accordance with Rule 11. They are in complete control of the competition and their decision is final on all questions.

Interaction with the speller: Because seeing the speller’s lip movements may be critical in detecting misunderstandings or misspellings, the judges encourage spellers to face them when pronouncing and spelling the word.

Notice of rules: The judges ensure that all spellers and audience members are given an opportunity to receive a complete copy of the rules prior to the start of the spelling bee.

Misunderstandings: The judges participate in the exchange of information between the speller and pronouncer if they feel that clarification is needed. Also, the judges listen carefully to the speller’s pronunciation of the word; and, if they sense that the speller has misunderstood the word, the judges work with the speller and pronouncer until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the speller in understanding the word. While the judges are responsible for attempting to detect a speller’s misunderstanding, it is sometimes impossible to detect a misunderstanding until an error has been made. 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 direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.

Disqualifications for reasons other than error: The judges will disqualify a speller (1) who refuses a request to start spelling or to provide an answer to a vocabulary question; (2) who does not approach the microphone when it is time to receive the word or question; (3) who does not comply with the eligibility requirements; (4) who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct; (5) who, in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered; (6) who, in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds; or (7) who, in the process of providing an answer in an oral vocabulary round, provides a blend of correct and incorrect information (For example: If in answering the question, “What is porridge made from? A. fur, or B. grain,” the speller provides as an answer either “A. grain” or “B. fur.”).

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, the presence of a hyphen or other form of punctuation, or spacing between words in an open compound.

7. Speller’s role: In a spelling round, 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 judges. 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.
Rules for Local Spelling Bees

9. **Errors:** Upon providing an incorrect spelling of a word or an incorrect answer to a vocabulary question, the speller immediately drops out of the competition, except as provided in Rule 10.

10. **End-of-bee procedure:**

If all spellers in a round misspell or answer vocabulary questions incorrectly: If none of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly or answers a vocabulary question correctly during that round, all remain in the competition and a new spelling round begins.

Ties: All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place. After the champion has been determined, spelling bee officials may opt to conduct tiebreakers (of their own design) if tiebreakers are necessary for the awarding of prizes or the determination of qualifying spellers for the next level of competition.

If only one speller in a round spells correctly or answers a vocabulary question correctly:
If only one speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word spelling round begins and the speller is given an opportunity to spell a word on the list (anticipated championship word). If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated championship word in this one-word round, the speller is declared the champion.

Example: In Round 8 there are three spellers. Speller 12 spells correctly and Spellers 23 and 37 misspell. Round 9—a one-word round—and includes Spellers 12, 23, and 37. The rules prescribe that spellers 12, 23, and 37 spell in their original order; so Speller 12 gets the next word on the list even though Speller 12 misspelled the previous word on the list. Round 10 is not complete until all three spellers have spelled.

Tip: Spelling bee officials may find it helpful to designate a record keeper or judge to track the progress of spellers throughout the rounds. The record keeper’s information will be helpful in preventing end-of-bee confusion.

11. **Appeals:** The speller’s parent(s), legal guardian, or teacher may appeal to the judges for the speller’s reinstatement provided that the appeal is in compliance with the appeal protocol. The judges render a final decision on the appeal in accordance with the reinstatement protocol.
Appeal protocol

A written appeal must be hand delivered to the designated official (usually the spelling bee coordinator/director). The deadline for delivering an appeal is before the speller affected would have received his/her next word had he/she stayed in the spelling bee; however, to minimize disruptions to the spelling bee, every effort should be made to deliver an appeal by the end of the round in which the speller was eliminated. When five or fewer spellers remain, the written appeal requirement is suspended, and an oral appeal must be made before the speller would have received his/her next word had he/she stayed in the spelling bee. A written appeal must provide the speller’s name, the word in question, and the reason the speller should be reinstated. While the competition is in session, individuals who have filed appeals may not directly approach the judges unless explicit permission to approach the judges has been given. The judges will contact the speller if they decide to reinstate the speller. To minimize disruption to the pace of the spelling bee and the concentration of the spellers, the judges are under no obligation to stop the spelling bee in order to discuss with the speller’s parent(s), legal guardian, or teacher a denied appeal. The judges’ decisions are final and are subject neither to review nor to reversal by the Scripps National Spelling Bee’s headquarters office.

Reinstatement protocol

Pronouncer mispronunciation: An appeal claiming that a speller’s elimination from the spelling bee was due to pronunciation error should be denied unless there is agreement that the pronouncer never offered a correct pronunciation.

Alternate pronunciations: An appeal claiming that the pronouncer did not offer alternate pronunciations should be denied unless it is determined that the speller requested alternate pronunciations and the pronouncer did not accommodate the speller’s request for alternate pronunciations and it appears that the speller’s spelling almost matches the correct spelling.

Speller’s misunderstanding: An appeal claiming that the speller’s elimination from the spelling bee was due to the speller’s not understanding the word [its pronunciation(s) and/or other information about the word] should be denied. It is the speller’s responsibility to understand the word.

Speller offered correct spelling for a word in this guide: An appeal claiming that the speller correctly spelled the word should be denied unless an audio recording of the bee’s proceedings or bee officials’ recollections clearly indicate that the word was indeed spelled correctly.

Exception: If the speller’s spelling is listed in Webster’s Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, Merriam-Webster, copyright 2002, the speller should be reinstated if all of the following three criteria are met: (1) The pronunciations of the words are identical, (2) the definitions of the words are identical, and (3) the words are clearly identified as being standard variants of each other. Spellings at other locations 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.

Speller offered correct spelling, as indicated in a dictionary other than Webster’s Third: An appeal claiming that the speller spelled the word correctly according to a dictionary other than Webster’s Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster, should be denied.

Homonym in a spelling round: An appeal claiming that the speller’s elimination was unfair because the speller’s word is a homonym should be denied unless the pronouncer failed to define the word and the speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word.

Homonym in an oral vocabulary round: An appeal claiming that the speller’s elimination was unfair because the speller’s word is a homonym should be denied unless the pronouncer failed to spell the word and the speller identified an answer matching the definition of a homonym of the word.
Incorrect or unsolicited information: An appeal claiming that the speller’s elimination was unfair because the pronouncer offered incorrect or unsolicited information about the word should be denied unless it is determined that the pronouncer indeed gave factually incorrect information and it appears that the speller’s spelling would have been correct if not for the incorrect or unsolicited information provided by the pronouncer.

Bee officials failed to correct a misunderstanding: An appeal claiming that the speller misspelled or incorrectly answered because the judges and/or pronouncer failed to correct the speller’s mispronunciation of the word should be denied. It is sometimes impossible to detect a speller’s mispronunciation or misunderstanding, and ultimately it is the responsibility of the speller to understand and correctly pronounce the word.

Disqualification request: An appeal seeking to dislodge another speller from the spelling bee should be denied.
Fun Facts About Hofstra University

Founded in 1935
Located in Hempstead, Long Island, 25 miles east of NYC
President: Stuart Rabinowitz, JD
Provost: Dr. Herman A. Berliner
Private, nonsectarian, coeducational
115 buildings on 240 acres
22 academic and 25 total accreditations
Member of Phi Beta Kappa
100% program accessibility for persons with disabilities

Colleges and Schools
• Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
• Hofstra University Honors College
• Frank G. Zarb School of Business
• Lawrence Herbert School of Communication
• School of Education
• School of Health Sciences and Human Services
• School of Engineering and Applied Science
• Maurice A. Deane School of Law
• Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine
• Hofstra University Continuing Education

Total Fall 2014 Enrollment: 11,032
• 6,922 Undergraduate
• 2,998 Graduate
• 828 Law
• 284 Medicine

Fall 2014 Entering Freshmen
• 28% were in top 10% of High School Class
• 57% were in top 25% of High School Class
• 48% were from Out-of-State

Campus Life
35 residence halls housing about 3,500 students, 18 eateries, six theaters, and about 200 student clubs of which there are about 30 local/national fraternities and sororities.

Hofstra has a vibrant campus with hundreds of social, academic and cultural events per year.

The Hofstra University Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Museum, with a collection of more than 5,000 works of art from the world's diverse cultures, offers 4-6 original exhibitions annually, and also oversees an extensive collection of outdoor sculptures featuring approximately 70 works of art.

The Hofstra libraries contain over 1 million volumes and provide 24/7 online access to more than 75,000 full-text journals and 150,000 electronic books.

17 varsity sports
• 8 for men: baseball, basketball, cross-country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, tennis and wrestling
• 9 for women: basketball, cross-country, field hockey, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball
• All sports compete at the NCAA Division I level in the Colonial Athletic Association.

Other facts:
Hofstra is one of only a few schools in the United States to host two presidential debates: one in 2008 and one in 2012.

Hofstra's strength in presidential studies also includes the Peter S. Kalikow Center for the Study of the American Presidency and a renowned series of academic conferences analyzing the achievements of modern presidents.

With Long Island as its setting and “laboratory,” Hofstra is one of the first universities in the nation to study the issues of suburbia through the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University®.

The Hofstra-North Shore LIJ School of Medicine uses an innovative and heralded approach to medical education. One example is that first-year students become emergency medical technicians and learn about the delivery of health care and the patient from the beginning of their medical education.

Hofstra was one of the first private universities in the country to achieve 100 percent program accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

WRHU 88.7 FM is the No.1 college radio station in the nation according to The Princeton Review and won the Marconi Award. In addition, students at WRHU have the opportunity to work on professional New York Islanders broadcasts.

The Frank G. Zarb School of Business hosts one of the nation’s largest simulated financial facilities, the Martin B. Greenberg Trading Room, equipped with 34 dual panel Bloomberg terminals and a vast array of financial and economic media and data.