



# 2021 Orange County Spelling Bee

ORANGE COUNTY  
**REGISTER**

## Program Overview

The Orange County Spelling Bee is coordinated by the Orange County Department of Education in partnership with the Orange County Register. Winners from school or district spelling bees participate in the county's Preliminary Written Round. The top spellers from the written round advance to the Final Round where they compete to become the top speller in the county.

The winner of the Orange County Spelling Bee advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee national finals. The winner's participation in the national finals is sponsored by the Orange County Register.

The Orange County Spelling Bee supports California State Standards by encouraging students to improve their spelling and expand their vocabularies which positively affects reading and writing skills. In addition, spelling bees help strengthen communication and character development which helps students to be successful in school, college, and life.

All events for the Orange County Spelling Bee will be held virtually for the 2021 competition season.

### Student Eligibility

1. Students must be the winners of their school or district spelling bee program.
2. Students **must attend an Orange County school registered with the Scripps National Spelling Bee.**
3. Students must be in **grades six, seven, or eight**, and may not be older than 14 years of age.
4. Students must meet all Scripps National Spelling Bee eligibility requirements.
5. Students attending a home school are eligible for participation.

### District/School Eligibility

1. Districts and schools must host their spelling bee by **February 10, 2021**.
2. Districts that host their own spelling bee may send up to ten (10) students designated as winners.
3. For districts that **do not** host their own spelling bee, individual schools may host their own competition.
  - o Elementary schools may send up to three (3) students designated as winners.
  - o Middle, Intermediate, Junior High, and K-8 schools may send up to six (6) students designated as winners.
4. **All schools** (including home school associations) must register with Scripps National Spelling Bee.

## Steps to Participation

1. Enroll with the Scripps National Spelling Bee at [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com) (see below for deadlines).
2. Submit Intent to Participate form to the Orange County Department of Education.
3. Direct all participating students to visit [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com) for the study guide/resources.
4. Provide students with study lists you can access from login section of Scripps website.
5. Host district and/or school spelling bees.
6. Submit Orange County Spelling Bee enrollment paperwork and fees for each student eligible to move forward in the competition.
7. Provide all student winners with the Scripps National Spelling Bee "Words of the Champions" booklet (district/school coordinators can download booklets from the Scripps National Spelling Bee website).

## Important Dates

1. **Scripps Early Bird enrollment for new and returning schools:** May 1, 2020 through October 16, 2020.
2. **Scripps Regular enrollment:** October 17, 2020 through December 20, 2020.
3. **Deadline to submit Orange County Spelling Bee Intent to Participate:** December 1, 2020.
4. **Deadline to host district or school spelling bee:** February 10, 2021.
5. **Deadline to submit Orange County Spelling Bee Enrollment forms and fees:** February 17, 2021.
6. **Orange County Spelling Bee Written Round:** Monday, March 1, 2021.
  - o Top spellers advancing to the final round will be announced on the Orange County Spelling Bee website ([www.ocde.us/spellingbee](http://www.ocde.us/spellingbee)) on Tuesday, March 2.
7. **Orange County Spelling Bee Final Round:** Saturday, March 6, 2021.
  - o The winner of the Orange County Spelling Bee will represent the county at the Scripps National Spelling Bee national finals. (Scripps hopes to host an in person event, but can't confirm due to the pandemic.)

## Fees

There are **two separate fees** required in order to participate in the Orange County Spelling Bee.

1. Scripps National Spelling Bee:
  - o **Early Bird enrollment:** \$175 per school.
  - o **Standard enrollment:** \$250 per school.
  - o Scripps enrollment fee includes: grade-specific word lists, pronouncer guides, certificates, rules for local spelling bees, fundraising ideas, and more. For more information, visit: <http://spellingbee.com/enrollment>
  - o Schools may pay Scripps enrollment fee by credit card or by check, with a \$7.50 check processing fee being added for check payments. Scripps does not accept purchase orders.
2. Orange County Department of Education:
  - o **Orange County Spelling Bee registration:** \$100 per student (special pricing for 2021 due to COVID-19). You may submit a Purchase Order or check.

For more information, please contact Kristin Rigby at (714) 966-4435 or email [krigby@ocde.us](mailto:krigby@ocde.us), or Megan Bailey at (714) 966-4471 or email [mbailey@ocde.us](mailto:mbailey@ocde.us)