



2023 Orange County Spelling Bee

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. 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.

Student Eligibility

1. Students must be the winners of their school or district spelling bee program.
2. Students **must attend an Orange County school.**
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 must attend a school that is officially enrolled with the **Scripps National Spelling Bee.**

District/School Eligibility

1. Districts and schools must host their spelling bee by **February 7, 2023.**
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.
 - Elementary schools serving grades K-6 may send up to three (3) students designated as winners.
 - 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 (see below for deadlines).
2. Submit Intent to Participate form to the Orange County Department of Education.
3. Direct students to visit www.ocde.us/spellingbee for study resources.
4. Provide students with study lists that can be accessed from the log-in section of the 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. Deadline to submit Orange County Spelling Bee Intent to Participate: **November 30, 2022.**
2. Deadline to enroll with Scripps National Spelling Bee: **December 31, 2022.**
3. Deadline to host district or school spelling bee: **February 7, 2023.**
4. Deadline to register winners and submit Orange County Spelling Bee Enrollment forms and fees: **February 10, 2023.**
5. Orange County Spelling Bee Written Round: **Monday, February 27, 2023.**
 - Top spellers advancing to the final round will be announced on the Orange County Spelling Bee website (www.ocde.us/spellingbee) on **Tuesday, February 28, 2023.**
6. Orange County Spelling Bee Final Round: **Saturday, March 4, 2023.**
 - The winner of the Orange County Spelling Bee will represent the county at the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Fees

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

1. Scripps National Spelling Bee:
 - Enrollment fee: \$175.00 per school.
 - 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>
 - Schools may pay Scripps enrollment fee by credit card or by check, with a \$7.50 check processing fee added for check payments. Scripps does not accept purchase orders.
2. Orange County Department of Education:
 - Orange County Spelling Bee registration: \$130.00 per student. Purchase Orders or checks are accepted.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Thomas, Project Liaison, at (714) 966-4316 or stthomas@ocde.us or Veronica Porras, Administrative Assistant, at (714) 966-4358 or vporras@ocde.us.