



The Buffalo News 2010 Spelling Bee Contest PROCEDURES

Open to pupils in all public, private, parochial, charter and home schools (Grades 6-8) in nine Western New York counties.

82 YEARS OF SPELLING COMPETITIONS AT THE BUFFALO NEWS

In the 82 years that The Buffalo News has sponsored the Western New York Division of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, it is estimated that over six million 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students have been involved in the competition. During this time, The News has awarded a dictionary to each school champion — over 35,000 dictionaries! Please encourage your students to participate in this 83rd annual event.

WHY EVERY STUDENT SHOULD ENTER

There's a good reason for elementary students to spell their way to the finals of the 2010 Western New York Spelling Bee.

In addition to being honored as the best spellers in nine WNY counties, there are cash prizes and awards for the 20 finalists.

For the champion, there's a free all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital, a \$100 cash prize and an engraved pen and pencil set.

Only one student can be the WNY champion, but there are plenty of prizes for the runners-up; even a prize for the best speller from each school.

Who Can Enter

All public, private, parochial, charter and home elementary schools in that part of Western New York known as the Eighth Judicial District (including Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties and the City of Buffalo) plus Livingston County may take part in this contest.

Schools must be enrolled by an official or teacher at the school at www.spellingbee.com.

Any child duly enrolled in a school may represent that institution provided he or she is in grades 6 through 8 and has not completed the work equivalent to the 8th grade; nor shall a child be eligible who will reach the age of 15 before Aug. 31, 2009.

CONTEST PROCEDURE

Preliminary contests within schools to determine the champion and runner-up speller must be held in each school sometime before Friday, Jan. 8, 2010. Names of winners must be e-mailed to: spellingbee@buffnews.com by Friday, Jan. 15, 2010. If online access is not available, please call (716) 849-5524 for mailable forms. Use the Champion Speller Form available at www.Buffalo.com/spellingbee

Schools may use any method they wish to select their two best spellers — regular class work, special written tests or oral contests. It is suggested that, inasmuch as the WNY Final and the Scripps National Final will be entirely oral, school finals be oral in order to give the contestants an opportunity to participate in such a match. This is particularly important because the semi-final (county contest) will be WRITTEN.

The BEST SPELLER of each enrolled school will take part in the WRITTEN test.

It is requested that these written tests be handled with the same care as Regents examinations. The test MUST be given on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010.

The papers are NOT to be corrected or rated before being sent to The News. Complete instructions for handling test papers will be sent with the examination.

The papers should then be mailed to the Spelling Bee Director, The Buffalo News, One News Plaza, PO Box 100, Buffalo, NY 14240. Papers will not be accepted unless the envelope is delivered to The News no later than Monday, Feb. 8, 2010.

The top scorer of each county with a registered speller along with the students who received the next highest scores up to 20 spellers, as determined by the written test, will take part in the WNY Final on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

The winner of the WNY Final will represent this area in the Scripps National Finals to be held in Washington, D.C., the week beginning Sunday, May 30, 2010.



WRITTEN COUNTY TEST (Feb. 3, 2010)

Written Contests:

Procedures used in Regents examinations will be followed as closely as possible for the County and Buffalo Finals. Teachers or principals should follow instructions carefully to ensure fairness to all. The honor system prevails for all concerned.

If the school champion is absent from school on the day the written semi-final test is given, or if he or she cannot take the test, then the second-best speller of the school should serve as alternate and the alternate will be considered the official contestant of the school. In awarding prizes, however, school officials are requested to give the dictionary to the original school champion.

WESTERN NEW YORK FINALS Oral Contest: (March 7, 2010)

Judges and pronouncer for the WNY Final are provided by Buffalo area school districts. All words must be correctly pronounced by the pronouncer. Contestants may request that words be repeated or defined.

Spelling:

Any speller failing to spell a word at the first trial shall drop out of the contest and the word missed must be correctly pronounced and spelled by the pronouncer and a new word given to the next in line. This procedure is to be followed until TWO contestants remain. From that point on, a word missed must be given to the next contestant until spelled correctly.

No Ties:

There can be no ties for the WNY championship. In the final match, when one of the two final contestants misses a word, both the word missed and the next word on the pronouncer's list must be correctly spelled by the remaining contestant. If that word is not spelled correctly, it shall be given to the other contestant who missed the previous word. If that contestant spells both it and the next word on the pronouncer's list correctly, then that contestant will be declared champion. If both contestants miss, then a new word shall be given to break the tie, continuing the same procedure until one outspells the other. Decision of judges in determining the winner are final.

SCHOOL AWARDS

School Champions

Each school champion receives a dictionary. Repeat winners receive a different reference publication.

School Runners-Up

The runner-up in each school receives a Certificate of Merit.

SPELLER AWARDS

All qualifiers for the WNY oral finals will receive a T-shirt.

Special Award

The girl or boy scoring the highest in the written test will receive a \$25 cash prize.

WESTERN NEW YORK AWARDS

WNY Champion

The WNY Champion receives an all-expenses paid week's trip to Washington for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The champion and an adult escort will travel to Washington D.C.. Both are the guests of The News. The WNY Champion receives a \$100 cash prize, an engraved pen and pencil set, and also has an opportunity to win one of the national prizes listed below.

Second Prize

\$75 cash prize and an engraved pen and pencil set.

Third Prize

\$50 cash prize and an engraved pen and pencil set.

Fourth Prize

\$35 cash prize and an engraved pen and pencil set.

Fifth Prize

\$25 cash prize and an engraved pen and pencil set.

SCRIPPS NATIONAL CASH AWARDS IN 2009

National Champion — \$30,000 in cash

Second Place — \$12,500

Third Place — \$7,500

Fourth Place — \$3,000

Fifth Place — \$2,500

Sixth Place — \$2,000

Seventh Place — \$1,500

Miss in round 8 — \$1,000

Miss in round 7 — \$1,000

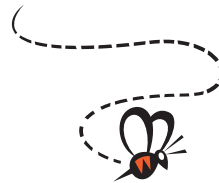
Miss in round 6 — \$500

Miss in round 5 — \$400

Miss in round 4 — \$250

Participate in Preliminaries

Only — \$100



THE BUFFALO NEWS