



Illinois State Senior Spelling Bee
2017 Participant Handbook



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Welcome

Welcome to the Illinois State Senior Spelling Bee! Thank you for participating in this competition of the Association of Illinois Senior Centers and the Illinois Department on Aging. We hope you are excited about the competition and that it will be a memorable experience for you.

This statewide program provides Illinois adults age 50 and older the opportunity to showcase a lifetime of knowledge and to celebrate years of experience through their spelling abilities, allow continual learning, and keep their brains active.

The program includes three levels of competition, including the State Finals at the Illinois State Fair on Senior Day, Monday, **August 14, 2017** inside the Illinois Building Auditorium at 1 p.m.



Mission Statement

To provide adults age 50 and older across the state with an opportunity to participate, free of charge, in an exciting spelling competition; to provide senior organizations with an easily-administered program that communicates effectively, supplies consistent and timely information and delivers all materials on schedule in an effort to provide a high quality program for seniors.

The Illinois State Senior Spelling Bee is intended to encourage adult participation and emphasize the “FUN” element in reclaiming or recapturing vocabulary and spelling skills that are sometimes lost with age. Since there is no registration fee for this program, every senior will have a chance to compete.

Program Overview

Participants

All participants must fill out a registration/waiver form obtained from selected senior organizations. Adults must be age 50 or older and may be required to provide some form of identification to verify age.

Structure

The Illinois State Senior Spelling Bee is established in geographic regions around the Illinois Area Agencies on Aging Planning and Service Areas. Seniors may advance through three levels of competition-Locals, Regionals, and State Finals.





Levels of Competition

There are three levels of competition to advance through to participate in the State Finals. These levels are: Locals; Regionals, and State Finals.

Local Level.....March-April

Each host organization may conduct numerous practice competitions, but must register only one competition for advancement. It is recommended that Locals be held from March 1st through the end of April.

Regional Level..... June

The second level of competition consists of the champions and runners-up from the Local competition. These competitions will be held after the Locals are completed in the geographic area (i.e. several Locals feed into one Regional competition that represents a specific geographic area)

State Finals.....August 14, 2017

The final level of competition concludes at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

The top seniors will compete for the State Championship as part of Senior Citizen's Day celebrations at the fair.



Competition Rules

1. Open to any Illinois adult age 50 and older.
2. Any organization that serves the older adult population may host a local spelling bee if registered with the AISC Spelling Bee Committee and if they follow these rules when conducting a spelling bee.
3. Invitations to host regional spelling bees will be made by the AISC Spelling Bee Committee. Preference will be given to AISC members.
4. When a contestant pre-registers for the spelling bee, a host may give the contestant these rules and a list of a maximum of 20 practice spelling words. These 20 practice spelling words should be used during the first two rounds of the event to ease nerves and promote success and confidence in those participating.
5. Spelling bee hosts may create a word list limited to words found in the American Heritage college Dictionary, 4th edition. List must exclude any word shown only in capital letters or hyphenated. Hosts may also use words provided by the AISC Spelling Bee Committee or develop their own list.
6. **Rule Change: Each spelling bee must have two to three judges , one pronouncer and time keeper.**
7. On event day, each participant must sign in at the location. Choose order of contestants randomly.
8. After welcoming guests and making introductions, the pronouncer will read rules aloud.
9. A practice round will be held first so everyone is familiar with the rules and procedures. (For this practice round, use the first name of the contestant as the word they spell.)
10. The speller must say the word, spell it, and end by saying the word again.
11. The pronouncer will pronounce each word twice. A different word will be given for each speller. If the word has one or more homonyms, and the pronouncer does not specify which one, the spelling of any homonyms must be accepted.
12. If the word is unclear to the contestant, the speller is responsible for asking for clarification in any of the following ways: Ask to have the word pronounced again; Ask for a definition; Ask for a sentence using the word.
13. The pronouncer will make a reasonable effort to make sure the contestant has clearly heard the pronunciation of the word.
14. Spellers will not be allowed to use any printed or written materials or any writing implements.
15. Spellers must speak clearly and loudly and slowly enough to be understood by the judge.

16. **Rule Change:** After spelling the word, the contestant must pronounce the spelled word a second time to indicate completion of the spelling, or indicate by leaving the microphone or passing the microphone to the next contestant or staff member that he or she is done spelling. No further attempts at spelling will be allowed after that point. A contestant will not be eliminated for failing to say the word a second time.
17. **Rule Change:** There will be a 30 second time limit that begins when the contestant completes spelling the word the first time. In other words, a contestant will have 30 seconds to reconsider the correct spelling, spell the word again, and say the word or leave the microphone or hand it back. The official timer will indicate when time is up.
18. When a contestant misspells one word, the speller is eliminated.
19. When a contestant misspells a word, the pronouncer will confirm the misspelling with the judges. The pronouncer will then tell the speller they are eliminated and give the correct spelling of the word.
20. When the contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one contestant misspells a word, the correct spelling will not be given by the pronouncer. Instead, the other contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell the same word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly, the second contestant shall be declared the champion.
21. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest, and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word to spell. The contest shall then continue under the above two rules.
22. Any questions relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the judges immediately. Only the speller or the director of the contestant's center or facility may make a challenge. If there is a challenge or protest it must be made before the next word is given. **The decisions of the judges will be final.**
23. The 1st and 2nd place winners will advance to spelling bee at the next level. The host is responsible for giving the 2 winners the details about the bee at the next level. The host will also provide the names and contact information of those advancing to the next level.
24. The 1st and 2nd place winners receive an award certificate. Other prizes or awards are optional and are at the discretion of the host.



Resources & Tips for Spellers

- www.spellingbee.com
- www.myspellit.com - There is a box on the left side of the home page that has several different languages. Click on a language for a list of study words, challenges words, and tips for spelling words with that origin.
- AARP will no longer be sponsoring the National Spelling Bee. AARP took down the spelling bee website on August 1, 2013. (http://www.aarp.org/entertainment/arts-leisure/aarp_spellingbee/)
- <http://www.timesspellingbee.co.uk> – Three more free spelling games to play online.
- Contact your Local Bee coordinator for a list of practice words.
- Review and learn the Competition Rules.
- Study using the American Heritage College Dictionary, 4th edition.
- Read, read, read.

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St. Charles Public Library & St. Charles Park District

2017 Senior Spelling Bee

Practice Local Spelling Bee Word List

1. brevity (brev-i-tee)

noun

Expression in few words: terseness, conciseness.

Polonius told Queen Gertrude that "brevity is the soul of wit."

2. ceramic (suh-ram-ik)

adjective

Of or relating to the art of fashioning clay into useful or ornamental objects.

Luke's home is a showcase for ceramic objects he has created.

3. delicious (dee-lish-us)

adjective

Appealing to one of the bodily senses, especially that of taste.

Judith said the fudge was the most delicious she had ever had.

4. etiquette (ed-e-ket)

noun

the forms required by good breeding or authority to be observed in social or official life

The defendant's attorney advised him on the observance of courtroom etiquette.

5. fiery (fire-y)

adjective

Of the color of fire: red.

Kevin knew that the photograph would not portray the fiery sunset in its full splendor.

6. hardiness (hahr-dee-nis)

noun

The capability of endurance or resistance.

The rose's hardiness was severely tested by a cold snap.

7. kitchen (kich-en)

noun

a room or some other space with facilities for cooking; a place for preparing meals

Joey spent several hours in the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day.



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8. lampoon (lam-poon)

noun

A light mocking satire.

The new movie is a lampoon of the horror films that are made especially for teenagers.

9. majority (muh-jawr-i-tee)

noun

A number greater than half of a total.

A runoff is necessary because none of the candidates captured a majority of the votes in the primary.

10. parfait (par-fay)

noun

a cold dessert consisting of alternating layers of fruit, syrup, ice cream, and whipped cream

Following a light lunch, Carmen ordered a parfait of tropical fruits.

11. pasteurize (pas-chuh-rahyz)

verb

Subject to heating long enough to kill disease-causing microorganisms.

Dairies pasteurize milk before delivering it to stores.

12. pastiche (pa-steesh)

noun

A usually incongruous medley of different styles and materials: hodgepodge.

Jordan considers the design for the new library a pretentious pastiche.

13. brigadier (brig-uh-deer)

noun

An army, marine, or air force officer ranking just below a major general and above a colonel.

After winning the decisive battle, Hiram was promoted to brigadier.

14. pasture (pas-cher)

noun

Land that is used for the grazing of animals.

Every morning the cows returned to the grassy pasture.



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15. brigand (brig-uh nd)

noun

One who lives by plunder usually as a member of a band.

The captured brigand refused to say a word about his group's leader.

16. centimeter (sent-ih-meet-er)

noun

A unit of length equal to 1/100 meter.

Your little finger is about a centimeter wide at the top.

17. brigantine (brig-uh n-teen)

noun

A two-masted square-rigged sailing ship.

Sailing school will be held on a specially outfitted brigantine.

18. abracadabra (ab-ruh-kuh-dab-ruh)

noun

Confused or unintelligible language: nonsense.

Despite the abracadabra in the poem "Jabberwocky," its message is rather clear.

19. brightness (brahyt-nis)

noun

The state of being radiant: lustrous.

Walter wore sunglasses while he was skiing to protect his eyes against the brightness of the snow.

20. centrifuge (sen-truh-fyooj)

noun

A machine for whirling fluids rapidly to separate substances of different densities.

A centrifuge was used to separate the cream from the milk.