

General Rules

CONTEST RULES OF THE Susquehanna County United Way's Spelling Bee

This is an oral, in-person Spelling Bee. Eligible participants in the United Way of Susquehanna County's Spelling Bee must:

- Be a legal resident of one of the following Susquehanna County public school districts: Blue Ridge, Elk Lake, Forest City, Montrose, Mt. View or Susquehanna Community.
- Be enrolled as a full time, 4th or 5th grade student in one of the above listed Susquehanna County public school districts.
- Be enrolled in the school district prior to the official start date of their respective grade level's competition.

Words used in this Spelling Bee have been selected from the **Webster's Dictionary for Students, 6th Edition, 2020, Federal Street Press, which the New Milford Area Rotary Club distributes to all third-graders in Susquehanna County. commonly misspelled words, and the Scripps National Spelling Bee Paideia 2019.** The top 16 in a school's fourth and fifth grades will earn the right to participate. The fourth-graders will participate in a contest in the style of a team game show. The fifth graders will participate in a traditional Spelling Bee, and the top three 5th graders from each school will earn the right to participate in a countywide competition.

1. **During the** competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant will be encouraged to pronounce the word before **and after** spelling it. However, no contestant will be eliminated **for failing** to pronounce a word.
2. The contestant may request the pronouncer to pronounce the word again, define it, or use it in a sentence.
3. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing, there can be no change of letters or their sequence **as pronounced. If the letters, or their sequence are changed in the respelling, the speller will not be awarded points (or eliminated if gr. 5)**
4. If a contestant feels that **they have** spelled a word correctly, **they** may challenge the decision of the judges. If a contestant disagrees with the judges' initial decision, they **may ask the judges to double-check the dictionary for alternate acceptable spellings** before leaving the stage. The judges are in complete control of the Bee, and their decisions are final.
5. The Spelling Bee shall be conducted in rounds. New words will be used in each round. No word will be asked twice .

Fifth Grade Rules

CONTEST RULES OF THE Susquehanna County United Way's Spelling Bee

This is an oral, in-person Spelling Bee. Words used in this Spelling Bee have been selected from the **Webster's Dictionary for Students, 6th Edition, 2020, Federal Street Press, which the New Milford Area Rotary Club distributes to all third-graders in Susquehanna County, commonly misspelled words, and the Scripps National Spelling Bee Paideia 2019, and Webster's dictionary**) The top 16 in a school's **fifth** grade will earn the right to participate in a traditional Spelling Bee.

The 16 will be given a study guide that may be used to study prior to the Bee. During the contest, students will take turns and be given a word to spell correctly. The rounds will continue until a clear winner is determined. The winner will earn a \$100 prize. The top three finishers will qualify for the county competition.

This is an oral competition with eliminations of a misspelled word in traditional spelling be manner

1. **During the** competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant will be encouraged to pronounce the word before **and after** spelling it. However, no contestant will be eliminated **for failing** to pronounce a word.
2. The contestant may request the pronouncer to pronounce the word again, define it, or use it in a sentence.
3. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing, there can be no change of letters or their sequence **as pronounced. If the sequence or letters are** changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
4. If a contestant feels that **they have** spelled a word correctly, **they** may challenge the decision of the judges, but **they** must do so before leaving the stage. If a contestant disagrees with the judges' initial decision, **they may ask the judges to double-check the dictionary for alternate acceptable spellings** before leaving the stage. The judges are in complete control of the Bee, and their decisions are final.
5. The Spelling Bee shall be conducted in rounds. New words will be used in each round. No word will be asked twice. If the study guide is exhausted, **a back up list of common words that has not been previously provided will be used until there is a winner.**
6. Upon the misspelling of a word the contestant immediately drops out of the contest, and the next word on the pronouncers list is given to the next contestant. No repeats of any words per contestant.
7. If none of the contestants remaining in the bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during the round, all contestants in that round remain to begin another round.

8. If only one of the contestants remaining in the bee at the start of a round spells the words correctly during that round, the contestant will be declared the champion, otherwise all of the contestants remaining in the bee in the previous round shall remain in the competition, and a new round begins with all of those contestants spelling in sitting order.

Fourth Grade Rules

CONTEST RULES OF THE Susquehanna County United Way's Spelling Bee

This is an oral **and written** in-person Spelling Bee. Words used in this Spelling Bee have been selected from the **Webster's Dictionary for Students, 6th Edition, 2020, Federal Street Press, which the New Milford Area Rotary Club distributes to all third-graders in Susquehanna County, commonly misspelled words, and the Scripps National Spelling Bee Paideia 2019.** The top 16 in a school's **fourth** grade will earn the right to participate in a team game-show style Bee. Each of the top four finishers will become a team captain. During three rounds, each captain will choose a teammate. At the end of the rounds, there will be four teams, each with four students.

Each team will select a team name and create a team banner. Each team will be given a study guide of 100 words, any of which may be used in the contest, **as well as additional words not contained on the study guide for the group written whiteboard rounds.**

The contest will consist of 10 standard point-earning rounds with 8 words per round, four whiteboard rounds, and a Final Jeopardy-wager style round. Two students from each team will be asked individually to spell a word during each of the first 10 rounds. If a word is misspelled, no points will be awarded. The words will become tougher in each round.

Scoring:

1. Two points will be earned by each team for each correctly spelled word in rounds one and two, for a maximum of four points.
2. Five points for each correctly spelled word will be awarded in rounds three and four, for a maximum of 10 points.
3. Ten points in rounds five and six, for a maximum of 20 points.
4. Fifteen points in rounds seven and eight, for a maximum of 30 points.
5. Twenty points in rounds nine and ten, for a maximum of 40 points.
6. There will be whiteboard rounds between rounds two and three, four and five, six and seven and eight and nine. **Points for each white board round will correspond with the previous round.** During each whiteboard round, each team will be asked to collaborate on spelling two words that were not in the study guides.

7. Before discussing the spelling, students should wait for the definition to be read, and the word used in a sentence
 1. The submitted word must be written legibly.
 2. Do not erase your word until the final points are given.
8. At the start of the Final Round, each team will be asked to decide how many points they want to bet **(from the points they have at the conclusion of 10 rounds)** that they can spell correctly a word that is appropriate to the fourth-grade curriculum, but not in any of the study guides. After all the wagers are made, **the teams write their word on the whiteboard, it is judged and pronouncer confirms with the judges.** Correctly spelled words will earn the wager. Incorrect spelling will lose the amount.
9. The winning team will be awarded a gift card for each player.

Game Rules:

1. **In the first 10 rounds contestants will be called in sitting order, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant will be encouraged to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it, however, no contestant will lose points for failing to pronounce a word.**
2. **The contestant may request the pronouncer to pronounce the word again, define it, or use it in a sentence.**
3. **Having started to orally spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequence change in the respelling, the speller will not be awarded points.**
4. **If a contestant feels that he/she has spelled a word correctly, they may challenge the decision of the judges, but must do so before returning to their table. The judges are in complete control of the Bee and their decisions are final.**
5. **There are no repeats of any words the contestants are given the next word on the pronouncer's list/per contestant.**
6. **At the conclusion of 10 rounds the team with the most points remaining after the wager will be declared the winner. If there is a tie of teams, all tied teams will continue in bonus rounds of the competition until there is a winning team.**
7. **In the first ten rounds the contestants compete in sitting order, if there is a tie at the conclusion of the final wager round, a bonus round will begin, and the tied teams will continue in the bonus round. Those teams still in the bonus round, may choose which speller they send to the microphone for the bonus round (s)-they do not have to continue in sitting order and they can send the same team member to the microphone for all bonus rounds if they choose.**
8. **The bonus round words will come from an additional back up list that was not on the practiced study guide. Rounds will continue in a traditional spelling bee manner until a team has misspelled a word and then they are eliminated from the competition.**
9. **If none of the teams remaining in the bee at the start of a bonus round spells a word correctly during the bonus round, all teams in that bonus round remain to begin another round.**
10. **If only one of the teams remaining in the bee at the start of a bonus round spells the words correctly during that round, the team will be declared the champion.**