

Oct. 19, 2022

To: Principals and or Spelling Bee Coordinators

From: Nicole Shina, Special Programs Planner

The 53rd annual San Diego Union-Tribune Countywide Spelling Bee will be held **March 9** in San Diego.

All public and private schools with a combined 6th-, 7th-, and 8th-grade enrollment of 30 or more students are invited to participate. The winner of the competition will be awarded the title of The San Diego Union-Tribune Countywide Spelling Bee Champion and will compete in the national championship in May.

A school must be registered with Scripps National Spelling Bee and have **paid its materials and enrollment fee by Dec. 31** for its student to participate in the countywide bee. **Your school spelling bee must take place prior Jan. 31 with your student winner identified on the Scripps National Spelling Bee website by Jan. 31.**

To register with the Scripps National Spelling Bee:

- Go to www.spellingbee.com and follow the instructions for registering.
- Pay the \$175 materials and enrollment fee by choosing a payment option. A \$7.50 per invoice check-handling fee will be applied to the enrollment fee when paying by check. Purchase orders are not accepted.
- If paying by check, mail the bottom portion of the enrollment-by-check invoice along with your check. You will be able to print a copy of your enrollment-by-check invoice during the online enrollment process.

Further details of the countywide competition will be announced as they are available at The San Diego Union-Tribune spelling bee website at www.sandiegouniontribune.com/spellingbee.

After you enroll and payment is received by Scripps, you will receive exclusive online access to:

- The official study list with spellings and word meanings by grade level
- The 2023 Classroom Competition List for administering classroom spelling bees
- The 2023 School Competition List for administering a school spelling bee
- Access to the [online testing platform](#) for creating classroom and school online tests

San Diego County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Gothold

San Diego County Board of Education

Paulette Donnellon Guadalupe González Alicia Muñoz Mark Powell Rick Shea

- [Words of the Champions](#), the 4,000-word study resource for your school spelling bee champion
- The [Great Words, Great Works reading list](#) with all source books for the School Spelling Bee Study List, organized by grade level
- Award certificates for participants and your school champion

In preparation for your school spelling bee:

- Each enrolled school has access to two levels of online testing: grade-level tests for grades 1 through 8 and a school-level test.
- Each school has access to a classroom and school pronouncer's guide:

To access pronouncer guides for your school-level bees, log into your school's account and select **Classroom** or **School Spelling Bee** from the left menu, then **Competition Guides** (in gray) from the top of the page. There you will find the 2023 Classroom Pronouncer Guide and the 2023 School Pronouncer Guide for use in conducting an in-person bee.

You may find [this short YouTube video](#) entitled *The Teacher Portal at spellingbee.com* helpful.

Please submit your school champion and runner up information and photo at the spelling bee website www.spellingbee.com. **Reminder, only students in grades 6, 7, and 8 can compete at the countywide competition.**

1. Upload a high-resolution photo (300 dpi from a camera or cellphone).
2. Have the students and parents complete the media release form **by Jan. 31**, and email it to Christine Barbara, christine.barbara@sduniontribune.com. The media release form will be on the [San Diego Union-Tribune Countywide Spelling Bee](#) website later this year. Both headshot release agreement and publications, video, internet consent and release agreement must be filled out.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

