

8.8 Spelling Bee Program

The Spelling Bee once again will be a major activity in the Youth category. You will receive schedules, dates and all the pertinent information in plenty of time to make the necessary arrangement from the Spelling Bee Chairman.

The New Jersey Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee is held at the Eighth Grade levels and only certified eighth grade students will be accepted.

To locate schools in any county, contact the County Superintendent of Schools for a copy of the School Directory, available to organizations upon request. A letter or call to the Diocesan Director of Schools also will bring the same information on Catholic Schools, with the name of the Mother Superior or Principal. We would like to have all schools, Catholic, private and public, in a given area to have the opportunity of being represented. The Diocesan Chairman should coordinate the councils in his diocese to make sure that the same school is not invited to attend more than one Council Spelling Bee, or may be omitted completely.

If you do not have suitable facilities for a contest of this sort, the schools usually have auditoriums or rooms that are available in most cases for a non-profit type program such as this. A word list may be obtained from local schoolteachers or sisters.

Participants in the State Championship Spelling Bee will be selected in the following manner:

- **Each council sponsoring a spelling bee will send its student winner to compete in a diocesan bee, to be arranged by the diocesan coordinator. The winner and three runners-up of each diocesan bee will then be eligible to represent that diocese in the State Finals.**
- **Council Bees should be completed by January 31, 2017.**
- **Grand Knights or Council Spelling Bee Chairmen should notify the Diocesan Chairman of their intention to hold a spelling bee and date. The Diocesan Chairman will contact all councils within his diocese and advise the councils of the details of the Diocesan bee.**
- **Council student winners will participate in a Diocesan Spelling bee in the county in which the council is located, regardless of the location of the student's home or school.**
- **The State Championship Spelling Bee will be April, 2017. Location TBD**

**Raymond J. Lillie, PGK, FDD
State Chairman - Spelling Bee
184 West Hanover Avenue
Morristown, N.J. 07960
(973) 292-3642
[LINK: Reference Spelling Bee](#)**

8.8.1 Suggestions for Arranging a Spelling Bee

A contest should have only two officials or judges; one to give the word and define it, the other to judge this procedure and proper spelling. Many councils have members who belong to school boards or Boards of Education who may act in this capacity on an exchange basis with other councils. School principals, teachers, priests, rabbis or clergy persons of other faiths are also very good judges.

- ⇒ Judges should be contacted well in advance so that they may acquaint themselves with the rules and word lists. Five to six weeks is suggested.
- ⇒ Where council jurisdiction may overlap school districts, determination of representation shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Grand Knights.
- ⇒ Councils should begin to plan in September / October for this event.
- ⇒ Councils should hold the council spelling bee contest in January
- ⇒ Councils are encouraged to provide small cash prizes, plaques, or certificates to all winners and certificates to all participants.
- ⇒ Council winners will then compete in a diocesan level Spelling Bee Contest in February. The Grand Knight or council Spelling Bee Chairman should forward their winner's names and contact information along with number of schools and students participating to the diocesan coordinator for planning and establishing the diocesan level contest.
- ⇒ The grand prize winners and three runners-up of each of the diocesan contests will compete in the State Championship Spelling Bee Contest at a time and place to be determined.
- ⇒ At the conclusion of the state contest, the Spelling Bee Chairman will forward to the State Youth Activities Director the number of schools and the number of students participating as well as the names of the local, county and state winners.

8.8.2 Rules for Conducting a Spelling Bee

The following rules will be used to conduct the Spelling Bee contest.

All of the following rules must be read to the contestants before the start of the competition.

8.8.2.1 Eligibility

Only certified eighth grade students are eligible.

No exceptions can be made, as this will be on a statewide competition level.

8.8.2.2 Registration

All students must register before the start of the competition and provide name, address and school.

8.8.3 Seating Position

At the time of registration, each student will draw a number at random for his/her seating arrangement. This procedure speeds up the registration by eliminating the possibility of a student holding back for a better seating assignment and to avoid being among the first of the spellers.

8.8.3.1 Student to Stand, Give Name and School

At the beginning of the competition, each student will stand and introduce himself/herself by speaking loudly and distinctly giving his name and school. This introduces each participant to the guests and judges and helps to ease tension and from being misunderstood during the contest. It is strongly suggested that a large name tag with the student's name and school be given to each participant to wear during the contest.

8.8.3.2 Pronouncer Gives Word

If there are any questions, they must be clarified immediately. The student may ask if the word is singular or plural, the tense of the word, the definition of the word, and if needed, that the word be used in a sentence. An up-to-date dictionary should be available and the publisher of the dictionary being used should be announced prior to the start of the contest.

8.8.3.3 Once Attempted, the Word Must be Completed

Each speller is to be allowed sufficient time to think before attempting to spell the word. The judge should caution the students not to be hasty at the beginning.

8.8.3.4 Two Minute Time Limit

As mentioned in the "*Once Attempted, the Word Must be Completed*" Rule, sufficient time is to be given. The two-minute time period is to be started after the judge has given the proper clarification. At this time, a practice round should be given and any mistakes in form, procedure of spelling noted, but not charged against the student. An additional judge, who may be chosen from the hosting council members, should act as the two-minute timekeeper.

8.8.3.5 If Correct, The Student Is To Be Seated

8.8.3.6 If Incorrect, The Student Must Leave The Stage Or Area And Be Seated. The judges will advise The Student of the Reason for Disqualification

It is suggested that parents or friends save a seat for the participants, if and when they are eliminated.

8.8.3.7 Misspelled Words Are Not To Be Repeated

A word that is misspelled by one student is not to be given to the next student. This misspelled word either may mislead or clue the next student as to its proper spelling. Thus, a new word is to be given.

8.8.3.8 A Rest Period Is To Be Declared At the Judges' Discretion

This is optional, not desirable, as both students and audience become tense and nervous after a time. No more than 45 minutes to an hour should elapse before the judges declare a rest period. A five-minute warning should be given to alert students to return to the stage.

8.8.3.9 Finalists Are the Last Three (3) Students to Remain

When all but three (3) students are eliminated, an additional five-minute break should be declared (contestants to remain in their places). At this time, all extra chairs may be removed and finalists seated together facing the judges.

8.8.3.10 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place to Be Determined In the Following Manner

Each student, as before, is to be given a different word as before, but if one student misspells his or her word, they will remain in place until the round has been completed. If the other two students are correct, the one misspelling the word will be declared the **Third Place Winner**. If however, two students misspell their words in a given round, the one who correctly spells his or her word will be declared the **First Place Winner**. **THE**

TWO REMAINING STUDENTS MUST CONTINUE AS BEFORE TO DETERMINE THE SECOND AND THIRD PLACE WINNERS.

All Judges Decisions Are Final

Note: Where council jurisdictions may overlap school districts, determination of representation shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Grand Knights.

Any questions should be directed to the diocesan coordinators or to:

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