

FCPL Spelling Bee Rules

- Participants must be 8-12 years old.
- Participants cannot compete in more than one library branch spelling bee.
- There will be a limit of 20 children maximum to participate in each local branch spelling bee.
- All local library branch competitions must be complete by Saturday, March 31, 2018.
- A spelling bee must have a pronouncer and at least one judge. Library volunteers may be utilized to assist staff members to conduct the spelling bee.
- Participants must arrive at the library 15 minutes prior to the competition to check-in and participate in a practice round. ALL competitors must participate in the practice round.
- All participants will be seated in an order predetermined by a random drawing of numbers. Each speller will wear his/her number around his/her neck during the Bee.
- Participants will spell in the order they are seated on the stage. The first round will include all spellers. Each subsequent round will include only those spellers who spelled their word correctly in the previous round.
- The pronouncer will give each speller a word. The speller must pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it.
- The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, and/or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judge agrees that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. The judge may disqualify a speller who ignores a request to start spelling. Once the speller pronounces the word, he/she has 30 seconds to spell it. The 30 seconds begin when the speller pronounces the word. The speller spells the word and then signals to the judge that he/she is done spelling by pronouncing the word again. For instance, the pronouncer gives the word "bee" to the speller. The speller may ask for a definition and sentence. The speller proceeds by saying, "Bee, b-e-e, bee." The judge indicates that the word has been spelled correctly and the speller sits down.
- The role of the pronouncer is to correctly pronounce the word and give a definition and a sentence, at the speller's request. The role of the judge is to determine if the contestant has spelled the word correctly. The role of the speller is (1) to gather as much information as needed to help spell the word correctly, and (2) to spell the word correctly within the 30 seconds time period.
- The spelling bee will be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the competition at the start of a round shall spell one word in that round.

- Upon missing the spelling of one word, the speller is out of the competition. The speller then sits down and turns his/her number card over so that the number is not visible. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next speller.
- **In the event that none of the spellers spell a word correctly during the round, all spellers in that round shall remain in the competition, turning their number cards back over to reveal the number.**
- At the end of each round, the spellers who missed the spelling of a word will leave the stage.
- If only one of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during the round, the speller who correctly spells a word is declared the winner.
- Winners of each library branch spelling bee will then move on to compete in the countywide library spelling bee championship scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 2:30pm at the Central Library.
- If the winner of a local branch spelling bee is unable to attend the countywide library spelling bee championship, then the runner up in the local branch competition will be eligible to compete as an alternate.