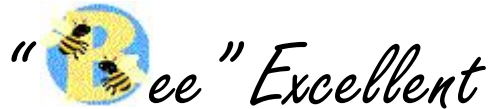




The Links, Incorporated
Tacoma Chapter



Spelling Bee Rules

General Rules

1. Participants must qualify under the following six basic requirements:
 - a. must be 12 to 18 years of age; male or female
 - b. must be a student in the K-12 education system
 - c. must reside in the South Puget Sound area
 - d. must attend at least 2 workshop training sessions
 - e. must register by November 5, 2011
 - f. must complete a community service project approved by the Spelling Bee committee
2. Each team will consist of five participants and one alternate. Each team will have a sponsoring organization. The sponsoring organization may be a school, church, business or other organization willing to provide mentoring and coaching services and is willing to ensure its team's preparation for the spelling bee.
3. Spelling bee officials shall be the judges and pronouncers.
4. The spelling bee will be an oral competition.
5. The pronouncer shall make every effort to pronounce the words according to the diacritical markings in Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its Addenda Section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster.
6. The Links, Incorporated, Tacoma Chapter shall be responsible for selecting the words to be used. All words used in the competition will be found as referenced in paragraph 5 above.
7. Each participant will be asked to spell and define the word.
8. After the pronouncer gives the participant a word, the participant may pronounce the word before spelling it, after spelling, or not at all. The participant must start to spell the word within thirty seconds (30 seconds) of the word being given.

- 9. The participant may ask the pronouncer to repeat the word; provide the part of speech and/or provide the language of origin. All questions must be asked before the participant spells the word. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been reasonably clear to the participant. The pronouncer or the judges will not entertain root word questions.**
- 10. The judges may eliminate any participant who ignores a request to start spelling within the thirty seconds (30 seconds) time limit.**
- 11. The role of the pronouncer is to correctly pronounce the word and, provide the part of speech and/or provide the language or origin.**
- 12. The role of the judges is to determine whether the participant has spelled and defined the word correctly. The judges may not eliminate a participant for asking a question within the time limit.**
- 13. The role of the participant is to gather as much information as possible to help spell the word correctly; to spell the word correctly; and to define the word correctly. The participant will not be allowed to define the word if it has been misspelled.**
- 14. Having started to spell a word, a participant may stop and start over with the first letter of the word, however, there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequence is changed in the respelling, the participant will be disqualified.**

Rules of Competition

Part A: Academic

1. Student GPA's from the first semester and will be given a point value. (See the chart)

GPA	Points
4.0	10
3.99 -3.50	8
3.49 -3.00	6
2.99 -2.50	4
2.49- 2.00	2
1.99	1

2. Student GPA must be verified by official transcript.
3. Points from GPA will be a part of the team's total point during the Spelling Bee.

Part B: Community Service

	Points
Project	7
Pictures	2
Display Board	1

1. Community service project should be reported using a display board.
2. Community service projects should be documented with pictures as well as letters from the individual / organization served.

Part C: Competition

1. The coach for each team will be required to check his/her team in at the registration area for instructions. **At this time all copies of the spelling bee word will be turned in. They may be retrieved at the end of the competition.**
2. The competition shall be conducted in three rounds.
3. At the start of each round, the teams get to select the order of participation of their members. Each team member is required to spell and define a word when the team is called, the team selects the order of a member who has not already spelled to spell and define the word.

4. **When the pronouncer announces the word, the participant must begin to spell the word within thirty seconds (30 seconds).**
5. **One point shall be awarded for spelling the word correctly and after the word is spelled correctly, an additional point shall be awarded for defining the word correctly.**
6. **After each member from each team has had an opportunity to spell and define a word, the judges shall signal the end of that round and shall tally and announce the scores.**
7. **The five teams with the most points shall advance to round 2. (To start round 2, go back to rule #3)**
8. **The three teams with the most points after round 2 shall advance to round 3. (To start round 3, go back to rule #3)**
9. **The winning teams are announced.**
10. **In the event of a tie, there will be a “Sudden Death” round.**
 - a. **When the pronouncer calls on a team, the team members decide who will be chosen to spell and define the word. A member can be chosen to spell and define only one word.**
 - b. **If that team member is unable to spell and/or define the word correctly, the team is eliminated.**
 - c. **When the “Sudden Death” round is down to two remaining teams, and one team incorrectly spells a word, the other team must correctly spell and define the missed word. Then that team must correctly spell and define a new word. If unable to spell and define the new word, the “Sudden Death” round continues until one team is successful. One point is given for correctly spelling the word and one point given for correctly defining the word. The teams shall repeat the “Sudden Death” until one team is successful.**
11. **Coaches / parents/ team members may not signal, mouth words or make gestures to team members during the competition. Violation of this rule will result in the team being disqualified.**
12. **Standing, walking around or unnecessary movement during the competition will not be allowed. Violators will be asked to leave.**
13. **Coaches having a question or a complaint will need to take said complaint to the dispute resolution committee located in the back of the room.**
14. **The decisions of the spelling bee judges and the dispute resolution committee shall be final on all questions.**
15. **Awards shall be made to the teams ranking first, second and third based on the final point score.**