

Knights of Columbus

MICHIGAN STATE COUNCIL

Spelling Bee - Rules and Regulations

1. The Spelling Bee is to be sponsored by a Knights of Columbus Council in the Michigan Jurisdiction. All rules apply to the grades 4, 5, and 6 competition and the grades 7, 8, and 9 competition.
2. The Spelling Bee championship is open to all students in parochial, public, and home schools, CCD programs, Columbian Squire Circles and Knights Daughters in grades 4-9.
3. There will be three levels of competition: Council, Regional & State. The Council level should be held in October or November. The Regional level will be held in December or January. The State Finals will be held in March.
4. At the Council level, each school participating can send up to eight students to represent their school. Representatives may be selected by the school conducting its own spell-down to determine the eight students, or by appointment of the English teachers from each school. If only one school is involved in the contest, they can determine the winner and three runner-ups whose names will be sent to the council and ultimately to the Area Program Director.
5. Council level competition should be held at a Knights of Columbus Hall or appropriate building selected by the program committee, unless only one school is involved, then it may be held at that school. The spell-down will be conducted until a winner and three runner-ups emerge. They will then represent the sponsoring council at the Regional Level.
6. Suitable awards such as dictionaries, thesauruses, savings bonds, etc. should be supplied by the local council. All expenses for prizes and refreshments are the responsibility of the local council. Complete the Spelling Bee Winners form provided in your youth packet and forward to the Area Program Director for the Regional Competition.

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7. Regional level competition should be held at a Knights of Columbus Hall or appropriate building at a location that is central to the competing councils. If both levels of the contest are held simultaneously, an adequate number of pronouncers and judges should be available. The spell-down will be conducted until a champion and first runner-up emerge. The winner and runner-up will then compete for the State Championship. Awards for the Regional level will be provided by the State Council. Complete the Spelling Bee Winners form provided in your youth packet and forward to the State Youth Director.
8. State level competition will be conducted until a champion and first runner-up emerges. State level awards will be provided by the Michigan State Council Knights of Columbus.
9. At all levels the pronouncer will decide where they will start in the word list. They may work up, down, or across columns. They may skip words if they wish. If a break is taken part way through the contest, the pronouncers do not have to begin where they left off. The first round will be a practice round.
10. In the case of smaller areas, the pronouncer may act as the judge. The judges' decisions will be final in all instances.
11. Contestants may request any word to be pronounced, defined, or used in a sentence. It is recommended that when given a word, each contestant stand, repeat the word, spell it, pronounce the word again and sit down.
12. If the contestant stops in the middle of a word, they may request permission to start again. The contestant will only receive one more attempt to spell the word. Having received permission, they then spell the word. When the last letter of the word is spelled and the word is pronounced, that word is considered complete.
13. Challenges made to the spelling of a word by another contestant or a member of the audience must be made before the next contestant begins to spell their word. The final decision regarding the objection will be made by the judge.

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14. When a contestant misspells a word, they immediately drop out of the contest. Misspelled words cannot be used again until only two contestants remain (see rules 15, 16, and 17).
15. When the contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when the contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second spells that word correctly, plus the next word from the pronouncer's list, then the second contestant shall be declared the champion.
16. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word, then the misspelled new word shall be given to the first speller. If the first speller then corrects the error and correctly spells the next word on the list, then they shall be declared champion.
17. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word to spell. The contest shall then continue under rules 15 and 16.
18. All words to be used at the Council, Area and State levels will be taken from the Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. The list of words to be used will be provided by the Michigan State Council through the State Youth Director.
19. The word list is exhausted when the pronouncer and judges deem it so. If the word list is exhausted, the contestants will draw numbers to determine their seating arrangement prior to spelling words from the "unseen" list. If more than two contestants remain when the word list is exhausted, they will continue under rules 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. When the unseen list is exhausted the pronouncer will pick words at random from the dictionary.
20. If a serious complaint is raised that can't be resolved at the contest; refer it to the Knights of Columbus State Youth Director. His decision will be final in all cases.