



The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of the Somerset Hills

December 6, 2016

The Junior Woman's Club of the Somerset Hills is sponsoring the fourteenth Annual Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 with a snow date of Wednesday, January 25, 2017. The Bee will take place at Bedminster Township School, 234 Somerville Road, Bedminster.

The Spelling Bee is open to fourth and fifth grade students. The top three spellers will be invited to participate in a District Spelling Bee in February. Winners from this District Bee will go on to compete in the New Jersey Federation of Women's Club State Spelling Bee at NJSFWC Headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ in March

The following rules will be used:

1. Word Pronouncer will say and define the word.
2. The contestant should say the word, spell the word, and say the word again, but will not be disqualified if they forget to say the word before or afterwards.
3. Judges will be present to rule on the spelling.
4. If a word is misspelled, the contestant is disqualified.
5. When only two contestants remain, if the word is misspelled, the remaining student must spell that word, as well as one more word, to be declared the winner.

Please consent to have your students participate. We would like to distribute registration forms to each of your fourth and fifth grades by December 16th, 2016 via e-blast to the four elementary schools. Anyone wishing to participate should complete the registration form and return it along with a \$10 registration fee to us no later than January 11, 2017. Rules and practice word lists will be provided to all participants. Participation will be limited to the first 50 students registered.

No student will be denied participation for financial restrictions.

I have enclosed the registration form that is to be distributed. I am also enclosing a copy of the Spelling Bee rules.

If there is interest at your school, please call me to inform me how to get this in an e-blast for fourth and fifth graders.

You can reach me at 908-757-6777. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bridget Ameo
Junior Woman's Club of Somerset Hills
Spelling Bee Chairwoman 2017

GFWC Junior Woman's Club of the Somerset Hills, Inc.
Fourteenth Annual Spelling Bee
Registration Form

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of the Somerset Hills would like to invite all Bernardsville, Basking Ridge, Bedminster, Far Hills, Gladstone, Peapack and Warren fourth and fifth grade students to participate in a spelling bee.

The competition will take place Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 at the Bedminster Township School, 234 Somerville Rd, Bedminster. The check-in will begin at 5:30 and the bee will begin at 6:00 p.m. *promptly*. Snow date is Wednesday, January 25, 2017 and will be used if the schools are closed or have an early dismissal on January 18th due to weather. There will be pizza, snacks and drinks available to purchase.

The top three spellers will win Gift Cards for \$50, \$25, and \$10 consecutively for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and will be invited to participate in a joint competition between students from Bergen, Morris, Sussex and Somerset counties in a District Spelling Bee in February 4th 2017 snow date February 11th in Rockaway. The top spellers from this District Bee will compete on the State level to be held March 2017 at NJSFWC Headquarters in New Brunswick.

Anyone wishing to participate should complete the registration form below and return it with a \$10 registration fee to us no later than January 11, 2017. Rules and practice word lists will be **EMAILED** to all participants. Please write email clearly. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PRACTICE WORD LISTS DO NOT INCLUDE ALL THE WORDS THAT WILL BE USED IN THE COMPETITION. Participation will be limited to the first 50 students registered.

Please return this form and a \$10 check made payable to the **Junior Woman's Club of Somerset Hills** to:

Bridget Ameo
39 Hillcrest Blvd.
Warren, NJ 07059

Note: No student will be denied participation for financial restrictions. Any profit from the event will be donated to our local school libraries.

Tear here. Remember: Registration deadline is January 11th, 2017

NAME: _____ **SCHOOL:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **GRADE:** _____

CITY: _____ **TEACHER:** _____

ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

CHECK NUMBER: _____



NJSFWC 2016-17 Spelling Bee
Official Club, District, and State Spelling Bee Rules
State Bee: NJSFWC HEADQUARTERS
55 LABOR CENTER WAY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901

All rules must be made available to contestants prior to the Spelling Bee and also read out loud to the contestants and audience members on the day of the Spelling Bee before competition begins.

1. Grade/Enrollment: Participants must be enrolled in the fourth or fifth grade.
2. Official Dictionary: Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary shall serve as the final authority for the spelling of the words. If more than one spelling is listed for a word, any of these spellings will be accepted as correct if the alternate spelling appears in boldface type.
3. Talking Among Contestants: Once the Spelling Bee begins, there shall be no talking between the contestants. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in the contestant being disqualified from the remainder of the competition.
4. Re-pronouncing and Definitions: The contestant may ask the pronouncer to re-pronounce the word, define it, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer may grant all the requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear. Judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling.
5. Pronouncing Words: In competition, the pronouncer gives the contestant a word. We strongly suggest to the contestants that they pronounce the word before spelling. This will allow the judges to make sure the contestant is spelling the correct word. After spelling word, the contestant should say the word again to let the judges know they are done spelling.
6. Practice Word Lists: Every contestant will receive a practice word list. Some words for the Bee may be chosen from the practice word list. Additional words will be added. No contestant at the Club, District, or State levels will receive any official competition word lists.
7. Homophones: During competition, a contestant may receive a word that is a homophone, meaning a word could have two different and correct spellings with two distinct meanings. Example: "plane" vs. "plain." In these instances, the pronouncer will automatically define the word. Should the pronouncer not provide the definition, the contestant can spell either of the homophones.
8. Proper Nouns: During competition, contestants may receive a word or words that are proper nouns, meaning that the word or words must include capital letters. All capital letters must be indicated during the spelling of the word. For example: if the word "Rhode Island" is given, then

the contestant must spell as follows: "Rhode Island (pause) capital R-h-o-d-e capital I-s-l-a-n-d (pause) Rhode Island."

9. Pauses or Re-starts to Spelling: Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing, there can be no change of letters and their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequence is changed in the respelling, the contestant will be eliminated.

10. Questions Related to Word Spellings: Any question relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the judges immediately, before the correct spelling is given.

11. Misspelled Words: Upon missing the spelling of a word, the contestant will be informed by the pronouncer or judge that the word is incorrect and must immediately drop out of the contest and exit the spelling area to join the audience as a spectator. Competition continues with the next word being given to the next contestant.

12. Final Decisions: The decisions of the judges shall be final on all questions.

END OF BEE PROCEDURES: Once the Bee is down to THREE CONTESTANTS

A. If all the contestants in any round misspell their word, all the spellers are invited back to the next round and continue to spell in the order listed on their placards

B. If there is only one contestant in any round that spells correctly, that one speller goes into the next round alone and is given the next word on the list

C. If that contestant spells that word correctly, he or she shall be declared the champion. If that contestant misspells the word, all the spellers from the previous round are invited back to start spelling again in the next round. Contestants will spell in the order listed on their placards