

GFWC Junior Woman's Club of the Somerset Hills, Inc.
Seventeenth 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 Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at the Bedminster Township School, 234 Somerville Rd, Bedminster. The **check-in will begin at 6:00 and the Bee will begin at 7:00 p.m. promptly.** Snow date is Wednesday, January 29, 2020 and will be used if the schools are closed or have an early dismissal on January 21st due to weather. There will be pizza, hotdogs, snacks and drinks available to purchase.

There will be gift cards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners (\$75, \$50, \$25) and these winners 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 8th in Rockaway, NJ with a snow date of February 15th. The top spellers from this District Bee will compete on the State level to be held on March 7th, 2020 at NJSFWC Headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ.

Anyone wishing to participate should complete the registration form below and return it with a \$15 registration fee to us no later than January 14, 2020. 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 \$15 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 14th, 2020

NAME: _____ **SCHOOL:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **GRADE:** _____

CITY: _____ **TEACHER:** _____

ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

CHECK NUMBER: _____



NJSFWC Official Spelling Bee Rules REVISED

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 spellers in a round misspell, all remain in the competition and a new round begins with the spellers spelling in their original order.
- B. If only one speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word round begins and the speller is given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list (anticipated winning word). If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated winning word in this one-word round, the speller is declared the champion.
- C. If the speller misspells the anticipated winning word in a one-word round, the new round begins with all of the spellers who spelled correctly and incorrectly in the previous round: These spellers spell in their original order.

END OF BEE PROCEDURES: Once the bee is down to TWO CONTESTANTS

- D. When the number of spellers is reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one speller misspells a word, the other speller shall be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second speller spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer's list, then the second speller shall be declared the champion.
- E. If one of the last two spellers misspells a word and the other speller, after correcting the error, misspells the new word, then the misspelled new word shall be referred to the other speller. If this other speller then succeeds in correcting the error and spells the next word on the list, then he or she shall be declared the champion. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the competition, and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word to spell.

**NJSFWC HEADQUARTERS
55 LABOR CENTER WAY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901**