



Telluride Historical Museum  
Adult Spelling Bee  
Contest Guidelines 2014

## 1. Eligibility

Participants in the 2014 Annual Adult Spelling Bee (the Bee) must meet these requirements:

- (1) Participants must participate as part of a **team** consisting of exactly 3 (three) **spellers**;
- (2) All participants must be registered as part of a team consisting of no more than 3 (three) spellers. Teams must be registered and approved as a team with the Telluride Historical Museum by the September 6th deadline, in order to participate;
- (3) Any individual speller must be beyond the twelfth grade or above the age of 18 (eighteen) on or before August 31, 2014;
- (4) Teams will raise a minimum of \$150.00 in support of the Museum.

## 2. The Competition Format

- a. **The Preliminaries is the first of two distinct segments of the competition: Preliminaries and Championship Finals.**

The Preliminaries consists of rounds of competition, known respectively as a **swarm**. During each swarm, three teams compete simultaneously onstage. The swarm is completed when one of the three participating teams provides the correct spelling of each of the given Spelling Bee words. Teams that do not spell a given Spelling Bee word correctly will be eliminated from the competition. The procedure for judging each swarm will be as follows:

1. The Bee judges will provide five (5) Spelling Bee words for all three teams to spell. The judges will provide the definition of each word.
2. Teams are allowed to work cooperatively for a maximum of thirty (30) seconds to spell each word. The thirty (30) second time period will begin after the definition has been shared. The next word will be given by the judges at the end of thirty (30) seconds.
3. Teams are not allowed to communicate with other teams onstage throughout the thirty (30) second time period. Each team must write the word on their respective white board by the end of the thirty (30) second time period.
4. After the thirty (30) second time period of the fifth word, each team must present their spelled word to the judges.

5. The judges will give each correctly spelled word one point. The total points each team earns will determine their final round scores. The team that has the fewest points at the end of the round is eliminated from the competition. The team/s with the highest score will advance to the **Championship Round**.
6. The judges will repeat the process until all teams have competed.

The Bee judges have final authority on whether or not a Spelling Bee word was spelled correctly. Bee judges have the authority to disqualify any team or any individual speller.

### **b. The Championship Round**

The Championship Finals is the second of two distinct segments of the competition: Preliminaries, and Championship Finals.

The Championship Finals consists of a single round of oral spelling onstage with the qualifying teams that advanced from the Preliminary Rounds. The round will continue until a champion is declared. The Championship Round begins with each team spelling a different word.

The procedures for the Championship Finals are as follows:

1. The order of the teams to spell will be determined by The Bee's MC onstage prior to the beginning of the Championship Finals.
2. The Bee judges will provide one Spelling Bee word for the team selected to spell first. This team is allowed to request a definition and/or an example of the Spelling Bee word used in a complete sentence. A definition and/or sentence of the Spelling Bee word will be provided by a judge. A sentence correctly using the Spelling Bee word in context may be provided by the judge and/or The Bee's MC.
3. Teams are allowed to work cooperatively for a maximum of thirty (30) seconds to orally spell the word. The thirty (30) second time period will begin after the definition and/or sentence has been shared. Teams are not allowed to communicate with other teams onstage throughout the thirty (30) second time period.
4. Teams must designate one speller from their team to orally spell the Spelling Bee word. The designated speller will be judged on the spelling of the Spelling Bee word as soon as they begin to spell orally. A team whose designated speller who, in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered will be eliminated.
5. If all teams in a round misspell, all remain in the competition and a new round begins with the teams spelling in their original order. Teams are eliminated if they incorrectly spell their word UNLESS there are only two teams left. In that case, if only one team spells correctly in the round, that team must correctly spell another word (called the "anticipated winning word") in order to be declared the champion. If the team misspells the anticipated winning word, a new round begins with the two teams; these teams spell in their original order.
6. The Bee judges have final authority on whether or not a Spelling Bee word was spelled correctly based on the majority vote amongst the judges. Bee judges have the authority to disqualify any team or any individual speller from a team.
7. A **Lifeline** opportunity is automatically presented to the three teams who participate in the Championship Round.

**Lifeline:** A Lifeline opportunity is given automatically to the teams that advance to the Championship Round. A Lifeline may be used by a team at any point in the round before the designated speller attempts to spell the Spelling Bee word. A Lifeline can be used in the following ways:

1. *Phone-a-friend* – A team may use their Lifeline to call somebody who can assist them in spelling the Spelling Bee word. A single phone call must be made onstage by only one of the team members. The phone call must last no more than 60 (sixty) seconds. The MC and/or judges will monitor the time used in the event a Lifeline is used. An additional call cannot be attempted if the first call does not connect with the intended party.
2. *Ask-the-audience* – A team may use their Lifeline to select an individual from the audience who can assist them in spelling the Spelling Bee word. Assistance from an audience member to a team may only last 60 (sixty) seconds. The MC and/or judges will monitor the time used in the event a Lifeline is used.

The Bee judges have final authority on whether or not a Spelling Bee word was spelled correctly in the event a Special Provision. Bee judges have the authority to disqualify any team or any individual speller from a team.

## Roles

### 1. Pronouncer's Role (MC)

The pronouncer assists in coordinating the onstage competition. Pronouncer's sense of helpfulness: The pronouncer may offer word information - without the speller having requested the information - if the pronouncer senses that the information is helpful.

### 2. Judge's role

The judges will pronounce the Spelling Bee words and sentences for participants to spell. The judges listen carefully, determine whether or not words are spelled (written or orally) correctly and uphold the rules. The decisions of the judges are final.

Misunderstandings: If the judges deem the speller's pronunciation to be correct, the judges will direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.

Pronouncer Errors: The judges compare the pronouncer's pronunciation with the diacritical markings in the word list. If the judges feel that the pronouncer's pronunciation does not match the pronunciation specified in the diacritical markings, the judges will direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.

### 3. Team Roles

Each team makes an effort to present written spellings of Spelling Bee words in legible handwriting. Designated spellers in the Championship Round will make an effort to face the judges and to utter each

letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judge. The designated speller and/or team may ask the pronouncer to say the word again.

Misunderstandings: A team is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless (1) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation; (2) the team and/or designated speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word and the pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonyms.

9/2/2014 – EK