

2026 Palm Beach County Super Summer Camp Spelling Bee

RULES

1. All spellers must be enrolled in a school within Palm Beach County and attend a camp participating in the PBC 2026 Summer Camp Scholarship Program.
2. Spellers will consist of incoming K – 12 students.
3. YSD staff and partners will make appropriate ADA accommodations to meet the special needs of competitors.
4. Parent(s), camp counselor(s) and guardians are not allowed to assist the students during the competition. Failure to comply may result in contestant's disqualification.
5. Camp counselors are expected to supervise their campers at all times.

Registration

Registration must be completed in the SCSP portal no later than July 2, 2026: <https://www.pbcgov.org/summercamp/Account/Login>

1. Providers will enter speller information through the Spelling Bee tab under the type: *Participant*.
2. Providers must register their top 3 contestants for each grade level in the SCSP portal no later than July 2, 2026
 - a. Any camper who participates in the bee that is not registered in the SCSP portal is subject to disqualification.
 - b. Camps may not substitute spellers on the day of the bee. Any changes must be made in the SCSP portal before the deadline of July 2, 2026.
 - c. Spellers will register for the category that includes the grade they will be entering in the upcoming fall school year.
 - i. Categories consist of competitors entering grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.
3. Each speller must have a completed "Palm Beach County, Consent, Release and Waiver of Liability" form uploaded into the SCSP portal.
4. **There is no registration on the day of the event.**
5. Camp staff must sign in all attendees upon arrival attendance purposes.

Pronouncer/Contestant:

1. Words shall be pronounced according to **the diacritical markings in Webster's Third New International Dictionary**.
2. The spelling bee will be conducted in rounds. Each contestant remaining in the bee at the start of a round will spell one word in the round.
3. The pronouncer may offer word information— without the speller having requested the information. After the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant **may** pronounce the word before and after spelling it. However, the contestant is **not required** to pronounce the word correctly. The contestant is also not required to note the capitalization of a word.
4. The contestant may ask the pronouncer for a definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin and alternate pronunciations. The pronouncer will not provide root words explanation, take questions or requests from anyone. The pronouncer shall grant all acceptable requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. The judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling.
5. In a spelling round, the speller shall face the judges and clearly state each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be heard by the judges.
6. A contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning. But after starting over there can be NO CHANGE of letters from those first pronounced, unless the student is competing in the K-2 category. If the sequence changed in the respelling of the word, the speller is automatically eliminated. A speller in the K-2 category may change a letter if they have not already completed the spelling of the word.
7. Upon missing the spelling of a word, the contestant is eliminated from the contest. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next contestant.
8. Eliminated contestants will be separated from competing contestants.
9. All contestants eliminated in the same round will be tied for the same place.
10. If a contestant whispers, yells out, blurts out, helps, or distracts another contestant during the spelling process, the contestant making the noise will be eliminated automatically unless the judges agree to issue a warning.
11. There are four different competitive categories; contestants are placed in their entrance grade level for the 2025-2026 school year. The judges can administer as many rounds deemed necessary until there is one to three contestants remaining in each category. Towards the end of the semi-final, if there are more than three (3) contestants after the judges already administered all the words from the grade level list of words, all the words are spelled correctly, then the judges will ask contestants to spell words from the next grade up.
12. Each category champions will be recognized (*categories: K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade, 9th-12th grade*). In the event there is a tie, the judges will authorize the pronouncer to use CHAMPIONSHIP WORDS**. If contestant spells all the championship words correctly. There will be a Shared Champion (Tie) for that category.

Championship round:

All spellers who have not been eliminated in the semi-final will advanced to final; each speller will spell one word in each round. Upon incorrectly spelling a word, the speller is eliminated from the competition. **The pronouncer can give each speller a new or the same word.** Championship words will be utilized to break a tie between two spellers in the same category. If the tying spellers both spell correctly or both misspell their championship words in the same round, the spellers will share the championship.

Judges' role:

1. The judges uphold the rules and determine whether or not words are spelled correctly.
2. Misunderstandings: The judges may participate in the exchange of information between the speller and pronouncer if they feel that clarification is needed. Also, the judges listen carefully to the speller's pronunciation of the word; and, if they sense that the speller has misunderstood the word, the judges will work with the speller and pronouncer until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the speller in understanding the word. While the judges are responsible for attempting to detect a speller's misunderstanding, it is sometimes impossible to detect a misunderstanding until an error has been made. The judges are not responsible for the speller's misunderstanding.

Appeals:

1. This is local countywide competition for improving reading and increasing literacy. There are no appeals subsequent to any judges' decision.

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Feedback:

1. The camp, speller's parent(s) or legal guardians or contestants may provide feedback by sending an email to YSD-SummerCamp@pbcgov.org or a letter to:

Youth Services Department
Super Summer Spelling Bee
50 S. Military Trail #203
West Palm Beach Florida 33415

****Championship words** are words not included in the list of words submitted to the camps, the words are grade level of each category which the contestant should previously learn.