



## RSVBEE FOR 2020

**WHAT:** For the third year, the Scripps National Spelling Bee will offer RSVBee, an invitational program creating more opportunities for champion spellers to compete in the national finals in National Harbor, Maryland. It is the only way students living in unsponsored regions can advance and an additional opportunity for the best spellers in the country to compete on the national stage.

**WHO:** To be eligible for RSVBee, students must attend a school enrolled in the Scripps National Spelling Bee program (in the United States or a sponsored region outside the United States); win their school spelling bee during the 2019-20 school year; and be in the 7th or 8th grade. Students who previously competed in the national finals and are now in the 7th or 8th grade also are eligible to apply.

**HOW:** Parents can apply on behalf of their child for one of about 140 total RSVBee invitations between February 11 and April 26, 2020. There is a nonrefundable \$7.50 fee to apply.

**WHERE:** Visit [spellingbee.com/rsvbee](https://spellingbee.com/rsvbee) to complete the application. The Bee will invite spellers beginning April 27, 2020, based on past performance in the national finals, grade level and participation in an unsponsored region or the largest, most competitive regions. **Invitation acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis.** The Bee will email invitations, based on the following schedule:

- April 27 – Invitations go out via email to first round of invitees (about 140 applicants)
- April 29 – 12 p.m. EST deadline for initial round of invitees to accept and pay \$1,500 participation fee; second round of invitations go out via email (pending available spots)
- May 1 – 12 p.m. EST deadline for second round of invitees (pending available spots) to accept and pay \$1,500 participation fee

**FINANCIAL AID:** For 2020, the Bee will offer up to 18 financial aid packages to pay a majority of the RSVBee expense for qualified families. The aid will waive the \$1,500 participation fee, pay for one hotel room for six nights during Bee Week, provide a \$500 gift card for meals and a \$500 stipend for travel. Parents who receive financial aid for their child will be responsible for any additional travel expenses to the competition, which is held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center. Parents can apply for financial aid after receiving an RSVBee invitation. Children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch are eligible for financial help. It is available only for students living in the U.S. (50 states). The Bee will verify financial aid applications and award aid on a first-come, first-served basis. If you believe your child is eligible to receive financial aid for the RSVBee program, you should have this form completed and ready to submit if you receive an invitation.

**PARTICIPATION FEE:** The participation fee is applied toward resources used in the administration of Bee Week and the national finals competition. In addition, spellers and one parent/guardian receive tickets to the Memorial Day Barbecue and Awards Banquet, credentials, an autograph souvenir for spellers, access to onstage segments of the competition, two speller T-shirts and online access to the 2020 *Words of the Champions* for use in studying for Round Two.