

a guide for  
educators  
and schools



Scripps National Spelling Bee®

# Dev Shah, the 2023 Bee Champion

## how the Bee shaped me

An interview with  
2015 Champion  
Vanya Shivashankar

## is our next champion in your classroom?

Enroll today!

## a-z to simplify your bee

Instructions for  
bringing the Bee to  
life at your school

bonus  
shareable  
content!

## meet the Bee's Educator of the Year

presented by SugarBee Apple



SNSB Reg.  
Largo

SCRIPPS NATIONAL  
SPELLING BEE

95th ANNUAL

# Journey of the



millions of students



diverse schools and spellers of all backgrounds



grades 1 through 8

in classrooms across America

developing resilience and growth mindset in our future leaders



regional champions compete near Washington, D.C.

Scripps National Spelling Bee  
Finals live on broadcast TV



ARE YOU READY?

Click [here](https://spellingbee.com) to enroll your school today at [spellingbee.com](https://spellingbee.com)!

# A to Z of joining the Bee



**A.**

Enroll your elementary or middle school in the Scripps National Spelling Bee program. Choose to participate with in-person, online and hybrid options.

Enrollment is open from August 22 to January 31. Early bird pricing of \$180 per school is only available until October 31.

School Bee Coordinators access study materials and word lists through an online portal of resources and distribute these materials to other educators and students at their schools.

Throughout the fall, educators administer classroom and school spelling bees using resources provided as part of spelling bee enrollment. Schools celebrate school champions who will head off to compete in the next round of their area's spelling bee program.

School champions compete in regional qualifier and regional spelling bees sponsored by regional partners across the country.

Regional champions study for the national competition and register for Bee Week, a week-long celebration of academic achievement filled with events and special programming.

**Z.**

In May, spellers arrive in the Washington, D.C., area to take part in the Bee Week experience, and a national Champion is declared during a nationally televised live broadcast.

**Enroll today at [spellingbee.com](https://spellingbee.com)!**

# Celebrating the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion



**“It felt good to win, and it's something I've been working hard for. I felt really accomplished.”**

**Dev Shah**

upon winning the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee

THANK YOU,  
EDUCATORS!



**April McAdams**  
South Bosque  
Elementary School  
Waco, Texas



## the beehive

Crafted with teachers in mind, The Beehive newsletter contains information to help you run a school spelling bee along with educational content from our partners like Merriam-Webster and the News Literacy Project.

2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee  
Teacher of the Year!

# you are the key to the Bee

## top tools for our VIPs: our educators!

The Scripps National Spelling Bee provides powerful tools for educators and schools to execute a successful and memorable Bee.

“ The Bee supports my goal to inspire students’ love of reading. There might be a child who doesn’t want to pick up a book, but they’ll dig into a list of words and a dictionary to figure out what they really mean. ”

— Courtney Sutton,  
3rd grade teacher



..... check out the rest of our educator resources! .....



the official  
book club  
of the Bee



tools for running  
classroom and  
school  
spelling bees



a reading list  
for students,  
broken up by  
grade level



a tool for  
conducting a  
spelling bee via  
an online test

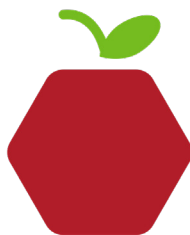


**words of the  
champions**  
the regional  
spelling bee study list

Scripps National Spelling Bee®

**educator**  
of the year

presented by



**SUPERSTAR** North Carolina eighth-grade teacher Gina Calhoun says, “Opportunities are limited for a lot of our students.”

## Gina Calhoun ‘makes an impact’ on students’ lives. – MOLLY MIOSSI

The 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee Educator of the Year embodies what it means to Bee a Champion.

Gina Calhoun, an eighth-grade teacher at Ashe County Middle School in Warrensville, North Carolina, took on the role of spelling bee coordinator at the school eight years ago. Calhoun has helped transform the program, giving spellers the opportunity to shine outside of the classroom.

Ashe County Middle School is in rural northwest North Carolina, with more than 65% of students on free and reduced lunch. Calhoun said that for some students, this competition is the first time they’re able to leave the area where they’ve grown up and attend the regional competition in Charlotte, sponsored by the Carolina Panthers.

“Opportunities are limited for a lot of our students,” Calhoun said. “It’s nice when we can do something for our students where they can hone a skill that they have and really shine demonstrating that skill.”

Calhoun’s teaching goes beyond the classroom, not only helping students improve their spelling, but also teaching them the importance of self-confidence and relationship building.

“Thanks to Ms. Calhoun’s passion, students from all walks of life benefit from the limitless opportunities the Bee has to offer,” said Corrie Loeffler, executive director of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. “From expanding their vocabulary to developing their social skills – she’s leading them on a path to success and showing them how to celebrate along the way.”

In addition to her work as school spelling bee coordinator, Calhoun is also one of the Bee’s biggest cheerleaders. When a speller makes it to the regional competition, she gets t-shirts printed and takes the student and their family out to dinner. Calhoun also ensures the spellers are featured on the school’s social media feeds and website.

“Ms. Calhoun celebrates our students like they are president of our nation, which really makes an impact on their lives,” said Susan Mochen, principal of Ashe County Middle School.

While she’s worked with hundreds of spellers through the years, there’s one message she has for all the students she’s teaching and coaching.

“I remind them of what they’ve already accomplished,” Calhoun said, “and I want them to be proud of that.”

*SugarBee Apple is sponsoring the Educator of the Year award. “SugarBee Apple growers proudly support the Bee’s educators and their devotion to inspiring every child to discover their potential to innovate and create something magical,” says Julie DeJarnatt, director of brand strategy at Chelan Fresh and representative for SugarBee Apple.*

# why join the hive

YOUR STUDENTS WILL...

PRACTICE  
POISE UNDER  
PRESSURE

STRENGTHEN  
LIFE SKILLS INCLUDING  
WORK ETHIC

THE BEE  
INSPIRES A LOVE  
OF LEARNING IN  
YOUR STUDENTS

DEVELOP  
VOCABULARY  
AND LANGUAGE  
SKILLS

BUILD  
CONFIDENCE  
AND HAVE  
FUN!

## how the Bee shaped me

An interview with Vanya Shivashankar  
2015 champion

**Q : How has the Bee impacted your life?**

**A :** My 10-year spelling competition journey has really made an everlasting impact on my life and I've made so many amazing friends and memories along the way. It's really shaped who I am today, and where my interests lie. Competing in the Bee has fostered my curiosity for the world, helped me discover a passion for language and etymology and given me a platform to express myself.

**Q : How has the Bee impacted your life?**

**A :** Currently, I'm a rising Junior at Yale University, studying cognitive science and global health and on the track to medical studies. So I've been having a lot of fun with that. My success in the Bee has very much paved the path for me to be able to put my all into where I'm at now. I still love being involved with Scripps and the spelling bees.



# buzz from the



## 1925 the bee that started it all

Nine spellers competed in the first Bee, held in Washington, D.C., in 1925. Frank Neuhauser from Louisville, Kentucky, won by correctly spelling the word *gladiolus*.

## 1926 did you know?

In the Bee's second year, we declared our first female winner, Pauline Bell, who won by correctly spelling the color *cerise*. We've had 53 female champions and 54 male champions in our history.

## 2017 the youngest spellebrity

In 2017, at just six years old, Edith Fuller became the youngest speller to secure a spot in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. To qualify, she outspelled 52 other children at the regional competition, spelling such challenging words as... *jnana*, *sarsaparilla* and *Baedeker*.





# exclusive prizes and special offers for your educators and students!

The Bee works with a number of partners each year to bring even more value to your school once you enroll in the spelling bee program.

## for your spelling bee champion



A one-year subscription to **Britannica Online for Kids** (a \$74.95 value)



a 30-day free trial *plus* 25% off **Epic Family**



Four free 60-minute, live, 1-on-1 **Tynker** online coding classes

## for your school



Discounted pricing for **Epic School Plus**, Epic's new paid offering for schools and districts



A free digital download of **Highlights** (ages 6-12) or **High Five** (ages 2-6) *plus* 65% off a one-year print subscription

## for your students



7 days free + 25% off **Epic Family**



Free live, 1-on-1 *Buzzing Bee* online **Tynker** coding class and 30 days free *plus* 40% off a **Tynker** home subscription



A free digital download of **Highlights** (ages 6-12) or **High Five** (ages 2-6) *plus* 65% off a one-year print subscription

**Enroll today to take advantage of these exclusive offers for spelling bee participants!**

