



Stone Ranch Elementary Spelling Bee 2020 Rules and Regulations

1. Students will receive a name tag at check-in. Students must be checked in by 4:45pm in the MPR/theater. No late entries will be accepted.
2. There will be a practice round to familiarize the contestants with the Spelling Bee format.
3. The Spelling Master will pronounce the word, use it in a sentence, and pronounce the word again. After the Spelling Master repeats the word for the second time, the timer will begin. Each contestant will then have 45 seconds to spell the word.
4. The speller will then repeat the given word. Having started to spell the word, a contestant shall be given no opportunity to change letters once pronounced. **The speller must indicate words with apostrophes, capitals, and other punctuation.** When finished spelling, the speller then repeats the word a final time.
5. The Spelling Master will verbally indicate that the word is spelled correctly and the contestant will return to their seat on stage.
6. **There is an element of chance in this competition.** Spellers will be eliminated in the order in which they misspell words. If the word is spelled incorrectly, the contestant will hear a bell and will be kindly asked to walk off the stage to collect their Certificate of Excellence. Another word shall be given to the next speller in line.

7. Judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling the word.
8. When a contestant is given a homonym to spell, she/he must spell the word as used in the context of the sentence.
9. In competition, words will be chosen from the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, the official reference for this competition.
10. The elimination procedure changes when the contestants are reduced to two. At that point, as soon as one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall immediately be given the opportunity to spell a new word. If the second speller spells the new word correctly, he/she will be the winner. If the second speller misspells the new word, both contestants will move onto the next round.
11. The decision of the judges will be final in all questions. Any problem relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the judges immediately. No protest can be entertained after the contest has ended.
12. These Rules and Regulations are designed for the Stone Ranch Elementary Spelling Bee and are not the same as the Scripps National Spelling Bee.