

New Haven READS Spelling Bee



About the Spelling Bee

The New Haven Reads Spelling Bee began in 2012 and has become our signature annual fundraiser. This year's Bee will take place on October 21, 2016.

- Teams of three adults compete in initial “swarms” of six or seven teams.
- Each team works together to spell the words, write them on a whiteboard, and hold them up for the judges.
- The winning team from each “swarm” competes in a final round.
- The last team standing wins a trophy!

The event is always a thrill! With creative team names, **COSTUMES**, appetizers & desserts, & **a cash bar**, you don't want to miss out! Plus, our hilarious emcees will keep you entertained throughout the night!



So you're interested! What's next?

Fill out a registration form. The participation fee is \$200 before September 1, and \$225 after, and many teams find sponsors like local businesses or their employer. Keep reading to find out more!

What can you do BEFORE the Bee?

Join our volunteer planning committee! Looking for a smaller commitment? Follow us on Facebook and share our “Word of the Day” starting October 1st.

Bee a part of the fun!

New Haven Reads (NHR) is dedicated to building a city of readers by providing a variety of critical literacy services to the Greater New Haven area. All the funds raised at our Spelling Bee will support our free community programs. For more information, visit www.newhavenreads.org.



New Haven Reads Spelling Bee Rules

1. Smile and have FUN!

2. Each team will consist of three members, including a Captain. The Captain is the designated speller for the team.
3. Words to be spelled will be drawn from the Word List. Tips for studying and spelling will be available on the New Haven Reads website.
4. In the event of an unbreakable tie for first place between two teams, words will be selected from a "Stinger List" to determine a winner. This is at the discretion of the Judges.
5. Teams will compete in rounds—called Swarms—of a minimum of six teams. Teams will remain in the swarm as long as they have spelled each word correctly.
6. The first word in each round will be a practice word. If a team gets this word wrong, they remain in the competition. The second word in each round will start the elimination round.
7. During each swarm, the Word Master will present words for all eligible teams to spell collectively. The Word Master will pronounce each word, give its definition, use it in a sentence, and pronounce the word once more. Teams may ask the Word Master to pronounce the word one additional time, but no more.
8. Teams will be given 20 seconds to collaborate on the spelling of the word. The clock will begin after the Word Master has announced the word *and* given its definition. The captain may not begin to write on the whiteboard provided until time has begun. Captains are asked to please write the word as large and legibly as possible.
9. Captains must stop writing as soon as the Official Bee Time Keeper indicates that time is up. Teams may be eliminated if they add to, edit, or erase their words once time is up.
10. Once time has elapsed, teams will display their whiteboards simultaneously, as directed. Judges will then determine which teams have correctly spelled the word and which have incorrectly spelled the word. The Word Master will spell the word aloud to confirm its spelling. Teams may not erase their whiteboards until the Judges and Emcees indicate all spellings have been approved. The Judges may ask a Captain to spell the word orally for clarification of the team's intent. Teams who have misspelled the word will be eliminated from the swarm.
11. The swarm is over when all but one team are eliminated. Winners of each swarm will then be recalled for the Final Round, where the same rules will apply.
12. Judges make final decisions on all questions. There are no appeals.

13. Don't forget Rule #1!



Save the Date: October 21, 2016

For more information, contact spellingbee@newhavenreads.org

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **The idea of spelling in front of people makes me nervous. I am still *traumatized* from my 5th grade spelling bee!**

This is a Bee for *teams of three adults who work together to write down the correct spelling of each word*. The focus is never on you individually! There are six to seven teams in each “swarm.” All the teams stay on the stage until there’s a winner of that swarm, and then they all exit together.

2. **Do I have to study before the competition?**

No studying is required! Some teams do study together – it’s a bonding experience – and we have a few lists on our Spelling Bee page with the kinds of words that might appear in the Bee (although we don’t post our official word list). No one knows which words will be used; the judges receive the list at the actual Bee!

3. **I am a terrible speller, but I’d still like to be on a team. Is there a non-spelling role that I can play?**

Find two really good spellers to be on a team with you. Offer to be in charge of costumes, or to be the Chief of Moral Support. Prizes will be given out for best team costumes and most team spirit, so bringing a positive attitude and a designer’s eye is definitely an asset!

4. **Costumes????? Do people REALLY dress up?**

Yes! We’ve had some amazing team names and costumes to match in the past: “ZomBEEs;” “Scrabble pieces;” “Super Mario characters;” “Punktuat!on;” “Word Doctors” – you name it. The costumes add to the fun, and we offer a special prize for the team in the best costume. The event is just before Halloween, so you’ll have a costume ready for October 31st. We have some suggestions for team costumes in the Resources section on our Spelling Bee web page.

5. **How can I support the Bee without being on a team?**

There are lots of other ways to be involved in the New Haven Reads Spelling Bee! You can:

- Join our volunteer **planning committee**
- **Sponsor** a team
- **Attend** the event as an audience member – suggested donation of \$10 for adults
- Place an **ad in the program**
- **Spread the word** among your friends, networks and community





Friday, October 21, 2016 | 7-9 PM

Evans Hall, Yale School of Management, 165 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

Bee PART OF THE FUN!

We would be pleased to participate in the New Haven Reads Spelling Bee as a:

- Early Registration Team (*registered **before** September 1st*) \$200 total
- Regular Registration Team (*registered **after** September 1st*) \$225 total

You may submit the fee as a check mailed with this form or via paypal on our website. See below for details.

Team Name ("bee" creative!): _____

Team Sponsored by (if applicable): _____

1. Team Captain _____

Address: _____

City, ST & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

2. Team Member: _____

Address: _____

City, ST & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

3. Team Member: _____

Address: _____

City, ST & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

4. Team Member (*Alternate*): _____

Address: _____

City, ST & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Note: Each team requires 3 players (alternates/substitutions accepted). All participants must be 16 years of age or older.

Please complete this form and submit with payment to:

New Haven Reads, Attn: Spelling Bee, 45 Bristol Street, New Haven, CT 06511

OR submit online: www.newhavenreads.org → Spelling Bee page