

Cullman Lions Spelling Bee Rules and Information

- Cullman Lions Spelling Bee is open to all Cullman County students grades 3 through 8. Maximum age is 14, regardless of grade. This includes public, private, and home-schooled students. The Bee is limited to the first 25 applicants and registration is free. Student(s) must be accompanied by an adult at the Bee. Student and one accompanying adult will receive free admission to the Fair (does not include rides).
- The Cullman Lions Spelling Bee is not affiliated with any other spelling bee or organization.
- Spellers shall arrive at the Cullman Fair Theatre at 5:15 PM the day of the Bee to check in and receive their number. The practice round will begin at 5:30 PM. All spellers must participate in the practice round. The Bee will start at 6:00 PM.
- Spellers will be seated on the stage in an order predetermined by a random drawing of names. Each speller will be given a number to be worn around the neck during the Bee.
- The Bee will be conducted in rounds. Participants will spell in the order they are seated on the stage. The first round will include all spellers. Each subsequent round will include only those spellers who spelled their word correctly in the previous round.
- The pronouncer will give each speller a word. The spelling procedure requires the speller to pronounce the word before and after spelling it. The speller has 20 seconds to either begin the spelling procedure or ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer will grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. The judges shall disqualify a speller who ignores a request to begin the spelling procedure within 20 seconds of formal notification to start the spelling procedure. Once the speller pronounces the word, the speller has 20 seconds to spell it. The 20 seconds begin when the speller pronounces the word. The speller spells the word and then signals to the judges that the speller is done spelling by pronouncing the word again. The judges will then determine correct spelling. For instance, the pronouncer gives the word "dog" to the speller. The speller may ask for a definition and sentence. The speller proceeds by saying, "dog, d-o-g, dog." The judges indicate that the word has been spelled correctly and the speller sits down.
- Upon misspelling of a word, the speller is out of the competition unless all other spellers misspell in that round. The speller then sits down and turns the number card so that the number is not visible. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next speller.
- In the event that none of the spellers spells a word correctly during the round, all spellers in that round shall remain in the competition, turning their number cards back over to reveal the number.
- At the end of each round, the spellers who missed the spelling of a word leave the stage.
- If only one of the spellers remaining in the Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during the round, the speller who correctly spells a word is declared the winner.
- Trophies will be awarded for the Grand Champion, second and third places.

