

Frequently Asked Questions

Friends of the Carthage Public Library Community Spelling Bee

□ Dates and deadlines and requirements

Declare your intention to form a team by March 1, or as soon as possible. Registration form and \$25 team registration fee should be turned in to the Carthage Library by Monday, March 8. Teams are requested to seek monetary donations in advance to support the team and the library.

One way to raise funds would be to sell raffle tickets. Three gift packages will be raffled off that evening: a St. Louis outing package including 2 nights at a hotel, a dining out package with certificates for area restaurants, and a reading package. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10. Individuals do not need to be present to win. Stop in the Library to pick up tickets to sell. The raffle ticket stubs and money may be turned in early, but all must be turned in by the start of the Bee on March 22.

The spelling bee will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 22 in the Middle School gym. One member of the team should arrive around 6:00 pm that evening to check in and turn in money raised by their team. The other team members should arrive no later than 6:15 pm.

□ Who can be on a team?

Anyone. Teams consist of up to 5 members of any age. They may represent a particular business, group, organization, or family, but this is not a requirement. Groups of friends or neighbors are also welcome, as are teams from other towns.

Teams will be introduced by their team name and any group they represent. Please make a sign or poster (approx 14 x 22 in.) to display with this information. Teams are also encouraged to have a cheering section with signs, banners, etc. There will be a Spirit Award, for the team who gets into the spirit of the evening with a clever team name, slogan, poster, costumes, etc. Please remember that this is a family event, and all signs, slogans, and costumes should be appropriate and inoffensive.

□ What happens if something comes up and one of our team members cannot participate?

You may recruit someone at the last minute to fill the vacant spot (or even have a substitute in mind ahead of time.) Just let us know of the change when you sign-in at the spelling bee that evening. Or, you may participate in the bee with only 3 or 4 members.

□ How will the actual bee be conducted?

The bee will be divided into two halves. In the first half, each team will be seated with a dry erase marker board. The announcer will give the word, and all teams will write the same word simultaneously. One person from each team will stand when ready. At the signal, each team will show their marker board, and the judges will determine which teams spelled the word correctly. During the first half only, each team that misspells a word will be given one (& only one) opportunity to “buy back in” for a \$20 donation. This will continue until we are down to about 4-8 teams.

The second half will follow a brief intermission. This part will be more like a traditional spelling bee. The announcer will give a word to the first team. Team members may consult with each other, then one person steps to the microphone and spells the word aloud. Specific procedures and rules will be given to each team that registers. Prizes will be awarded to the top teams for fundraising and for spelling.

□ How will the monies raised be used?

The registration fees will be used to purchase prizes and to cover expenses in connection with holding the spelling bee. Profits from the concession stand, donations from the sponsors, community, & the audience, and raffle ticket income will go to the Friends of the Carthage Public Library, and will be used to help support the Library.