

# Frederick Robie Cup Spelling Bee

## Really Easy to Understand and Not at All Overwhelming

### Information and Rules

#### General Information:

- This spelling bee is a fundraising event for the Gorham Educational Foundation, and all money raised will be used by GEF for programming and operational costs. Thank you for supporting our mission of pursuing excellence in the Gorham school system by participating in our spelling bee!.
- Spelling bee teams will be comprised of three people each. All team members must be over the age of 21.
- The fee for entry into the spelling bee is \$150/team. This fee can be paid by the team, or the team can find a sponsor or sponsors (business, neighborhood, wealthy grandmother, etc.) to pay the entry fee.
- For every \$50 extra the team raises for GEF, the team will earn a free pass, which will allow the team to skip to the next word on the list on their turn in the spelling bee. More on that in the rules, but get your charm and persuasion ready! You never know when you might get hit with a word like abecedarian, or peccadillo, or sycophancy.
- Each team is encouraged to wear a “uniform” of sorts, or something that identifies them as teammates. This can be anything from matching t-shirts to hula skirts, to chicken costumes. Use your imaginations and have fun! There will be an award for the best team “uniform”.
- There will be a really big and impressive team trophy for the winner of the spelling bee, as well as an award for the team that raises the most money for GEF.
- There will be a cash bar (wine and beer) at the event, and each spelling bee team member will be provided with two free drink tickets as a token of our appreciation and to improve spelling ability.

#### Rules :

- We will be using an (extremely) modified (for our amusement) version of the Scripps National Spelling Bee rules.
- All words used in this bee can be found in Webster’s Third New International Dictionary.
- Each spelling team has two minutes to provide the proper spelling of the given word, beginning as soon as the announcer says the word. The light will turn from green to yellow when 30 seconds of time are left, and red when time is up.
- Teams will collaborate on the correct spelling of each word, with one team member responsible for stating the spelling of the word. The speaker/speller can change from word to word, or be the same throughout, at the discretion of the team.
- The team is held responsible for any misunderstanding of a word with the following exceptions. The announcer must give the correct pronunciation of a word. The announcer must provide correct information regarding definition, the country of origin and the part of speech.
- The team is automatically eliminated if he misspells a word and none of the rules regarding misunderstanding applies.

- During a spelling bee the speller traditionally repeats the word before and after s/he has spelled. Teams are encouraged to do this in order to make sure they heard the word correctly; however a team cannot be disqualified for not repeating the word before or after spelling it.
- A team is allowed to stop at any point during the spelling process and begin again from the beginning. However, the speller is not allowed to change any letters that s/he began with before the point at which s/he stopped. If every letter in the process is not the same as it was before stopping, the team can be eliminated.
- The rules change when the competition gets down to the final two teams. If the first team misses a word, the second team must correctly spell that word and then another in order to win. If the second team misspells the new word, then the first team gets the chance to correct it. If it is spelled correctly then the team gets a new word and if that word is spelled correctly that team is declared the winner.
- We will be using a panel of three “judges” for this bee. There will be the announcer, who gives the words, a person responsible for timing, and a backup judge to assist in questionable situations. In the case that the two judges do not agree, the timing judge will be called upon to break the tie.
- As discussed above, teams can raise \$50 to get a pass to the next word on the list if they are stumped. Teams can have a bank of passes for which they have raised money prior to the event (eg. If the team raised \$100 extra prior to the event, that team would start with two passes), or can earn passes on the spot by persuading, cajoling, or somehow earning money from audience members (song and dance, promises to wash cars – be creative!). A “Bail-Out Money” bucket will be provided for this purpose. It’s also a great idea to bring your friends, co-workers, family, and people who owe you money, in case you need their support.
- At any time during the bee the announcer may change the rules for a round, just for fun. Hang on to your hats!