

For Immediate Release



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Colorado State Spelling Bee Celebrates 76th Year

Top spellers from across state to compete on March 12 at University of Denver

Denver, CO - March 10, 2016 - More than 280 top student spellers from Colorado elementary and middle schools will gather at University of Denver's Sturm Hall on Saturday, March 12, 2016 to compete in the 76th Annual Colorado State Spelling Bee. The winner will advance to compete for a \$30,000 cash prize in the 2016 Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington D.C. in May.

Over the 76 year history of Colorado students competing in the National Bee, a Colorado student has won the coveted national title seven times: 1957, 1959, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1989, and 2002. In 2015, Colorado State Spelling Bee champion, *Sylvie Lamontagne* from Creighton Middle School in Lakewood, made it to the top 10 in the national competition.

This spelling bee will include more than 280 pre-qualified 4th to 8th grade students from schools across the state. They will take part in written tests before advancing to the oral competition starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 12. This exciting, free event is open to the public.

"We are proud to host and recognize the achievements of these incredible students from Colorado," said Carol Cline, Colorado State Spelling Bee event director. "They put so much time and dedication into studying for this competition and continue to impress us each year with their effort."

For a list of this year's competing spellers, please [click here](#).

For an image of the 2015 Colorado State Spelling Bee Champion, [click here](#).

Cutline for photo: Sylvie Lamontagne, from Creighton Middle School, won the 2015 competition with the word, sympatric. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

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About Denver Post Community Foundation

The Colorado State Spelling Bee is an event of The Denver Post Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, which serves to improve and enrich the lives of those in our community by raising and distributing funds to metro-area and Colorado nonprofit agencies serving the areas of arts, youth, education, and human services. The Foundation raises funds primarily through eight signature events and programs including: Basket of Joy, Cheyenne Frontier Days Train, Colorado State Spelling Bee, Passport to the Arts, Pedal The Plains Bicycle Tour, Pen and Podium Series, Ride the Rockies Bicycle

Tour, and Underground Music Showcase. To learn more about Denver Post Community, visit denverpostcommunity.com.

About Scripps National Spelling Bee:

The nation's largest and longest running educational program. The purpose of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is to help students improve spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them all of their lives. Visit spellingbee.com for more information about the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which is administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E. W. Scripps Company.

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