

For Immediate Release



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Colorado State Spelling Bee Celebrates 77th Year

Top spellers from across state to compete on March 11 at University of Denver

Denver, CO - March 8, 2017 - More than 270 top student spellers from Colorado elementary and middle schools will gather at University of Denver's Sturm Hall on Saturday, March 11, 2017 to compete in the 77th Annual Colorado State Spelling Bee. The winner will advance to compete for a \$40,000 cash prize in the 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington D.C. in May.

Over the 77 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 2016, Colorado State Spelling Bee champion, *Sylvie Lamontagne* from Lakewood, took 4th place in the national competition.

The Colorado State Spelling Bee will include more than 270 pre-qualified 4th to 8th grade students from schools across the state. They will take part in written tests to determine the finalists for the oral competition starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 11. This exciting, free event is open to the public.

"We are proud to host and recognize the achievements of these incredible student spellers from across 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 everyone in attendance each year."

For a list of this year's competing spellers sorted by their school, please [click here](#). To see the list sorted by their city, [click here](#).

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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 celebrates its 90th year in 2017. 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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