

Iowa State Fair Spelling Bee 2026

Fair time is almost here, and we're excited to announce that the Iowa State Fair will once again sponsor a Spelling Bee for elementary school students across Iowa!

The Spelling Bee will take place on Friday, August 14, 2026, at the Penningroth Sale Ring located in the Cattle Barn at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. We are reaching out to school personnel who may be interested in encouraging their students to participate in this year's competition. As outlined on the enclosed entry form, the Spelling Bee includes three competition categories:

- Students who have completed 1st and 2nd grades
 - Students who have completed 3rd and 4th grades
 - Students who have completed 5th and 6th grades
- Only students in these grade levels are eligible.**

Our goal is to show children that mastering fundamentals like spelling can be both educational and fun! We will follow the official rules of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. A full copy of the rules is enclosed.

An entry form is included with this announcement. Please feel free to make additional copies if multiple students from your school wish to participate. **Entries must be received by June 15, 2026.** Each age group will be limited to **seventy (70)** participants. Registered students will receive detailed instructions, a map of the fairgrounds, a State Fair admission ticket for the day of the competition, and a practice word list.

Every participant will receive a certificate and participant ribbon. Top finishers in each age group may receive additional awards. We ask for your help in distributing the enclosed entry forms to interested students and teachers. Although you are welcome to host a local spelling bee at your school to select representatives, it is not required.

If you have any questions, please contact Tonya Cook at the Iowa State Fair:

- **Mail:** P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, Iowa 50317
- **Email:** tcook@iowastatefair.org
- **Phone:** 515-401-1515

Thank you for helping us share this exciting opportunity with your students and teachers!

Please remember: **Participation is limited to seventy (70) students per competition level.**