

Is your child a great speller? Sign up your kindergartener through 8th grader for the Scripps National Spelling Bee through Learning at Home before December 31.

Laura Tipps is the Alabama state homeschool coordinator for spelling bees that are a part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee system. Homeschooled students go by the rules that apply to all students, such as age, grade, etc. To see these rules of eligibility, go to <http://www.spellingbee.com/eligibility>

As all students must also be registered with Scripps National Spelling Bee, the homeschool association Learning At Home was started so all homeschoolers could participate. The fee covers all eligible children in your family. Learning At Home is already registered with Scripps for this year, so it is ready to take new registrations.

The \$8 membership fee in Learning At Home entitles all of your dependent children who are eligible to participate in a district bee. You will receive the word lists provided to Laura Tipps by Scripps.

District bees will be held around the state in January. All Scripps registered students are eligible to participate in ONE of these bees. However, you may choose which district bee to attend.

The first, second, and third place winners from each of the district bees will then meet to compete against each other in what is called the Homeschool County Bee. The winner of the county bee goes to the Alabama Spelling Bee in the spring to compete against county winners from all over the state. For that reason, the homeschool bee is called the Homeschool County Bee.

If our homeschool representative wins the Alabama Spelling Bee, he or she goes to Washington, D.C. (expenses paid) to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This is a wonderful experience for the speller and the family!

There is no minimum age to participate in district bees. All ages participate together, just as they do in Washington. The district coordinators have leeway to conduct a younger children's bee before the district bee if they wish. If this occurs, the younger children are still eligible to compete in the district bee that follows.

To register or for more information, contact:

Laura Tipps

AL State Homeschool Spelling Bee Coordinator

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