

Spelling Bee 101

9/10/2011

I was unable to set up sponsorship for our Bee to feed to the Scripps National Spelling Bee through a Regional Bee, but it was not from lack of trying. I have worked over the summer to set up a consortium of businesses and private investors to support the Burlington County public, private, and homeschool students by hosting a Regional Bee, which would feed to the Scripps National Bee. There are some interested parties but there is not enough momentum to push it through this year. I am more confident that it can be accomplished for next year, however, it is important to note that the politics of the Scripps Bee have interfered with the progress. Scripps is costly. This is because we are supporting a large media frenzy. Many counties, schools and businesses are opting to create other ways for students who are outstanding spellers to compete and excel.

Another significant complicating factor is that no homeschool family or homeschool support group can be a sponsor of a Regional (county-level) Scripps Feeder Bee. So, as I do all of the legwork and try to organize a consortium to benefit all Burlington County students, I also have to convince someone else to be the point person, because they will not allow a homeschooler teacher to be in this role. (Hello??)

The regional bee (county level) hosts students from all area public, private and homeschools. This regional sponsor runs the county level bee and sends the winner to Scripps. It costs thousands to do this, which is why Burlington County does not (presently) have a sponsor.

The Garden State Homeschool Spelling Bee will continue, regardless, and it is my hope to grow it.

Happy spelling!

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