Spelling Bee FAQs

- What time should teams arrive? 6 p.m.
- Do I need to have 3 people on my team? You can enter a team of 2 or 4, but any more or less does not work.
- How elaborate are the costumes? Costumes varied last year from authentic costumes like the honey bees to decorated T-shirts and hats.
- Can I enter a team with my kids? Although we recommend that Spelling Bee team consist of adults and high school students, you may enter a team with your children. We don't think you should enter children younger than middle school age as they will be competing against adult teams.
- What is the format? Teams will compete in rounds against 5-6 other teams. The winner of that round moves on to the next round.
- Each team will be offered a "2nd Chance" and a "Spell Check" to purchase to help them stay in the game longer. These must be purchased in advance of getting on stage. The final round will consist of the winners from all previous rounds.
- Is there a grand prize? The grand prize is a $500 check. The winners can keep the check (splitting it equally) or donate the money to a nonprofit organization or school of their choice. Last year's winners donated to a school and an athletic team.
- Can my company sponsor my team? Your company can sponsor your team. They simply send the entry fee of $150 to NEF and we will include the company name in the program book. If they want to sponsor the event, we have several levels and will include their logo in our publicity.
- How do you choose which word to start with? We have different tiers of spelling words. We will start with moderate and work our way up.
- What is a Spell Check? If you are unsure of your spelling, you can ask a member of the audience to check the spelling before it is revealed to the judges. Teams can purchase a spell check for $25.
- What is a Second Chance? You can purchase a second chance for $25 to stay in the bee if you misspell a word.