



*The Illinois Teachers of Hard of Hearing/Deaf Individuals
Presents*

2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee



**Wednesday, April 26, 2017
11:00 a.m.**

**Illinois State University
Bone Student Center
Prairie Room South**



The Illinois Teachers of Hard of Hearing/Deaf Individuals (ITHI) is pleased to present the 2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee. Much gratitude is extended to the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission for the extensive materials developed during past successful bees, as well as the assistance provided to our organization this year.

This packet contains the forms and information needed to participate in the 2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee. Included please find:

- **Registration and Information**
- **Rules and Procedures**
- **Registration Form**
- **Parent/Guardian Consent Form**
- **Eligibility Requirements**
- **Hosting a Local Spelling Bee**
- **Advisor Agreement Form**
- **Word Lists**

Students participating in the event must have the following forms completed and submitted by March 11, 2017. Forms may be mailed or emailed.

**Registration Form
Advisor Agreement Form
Parent/Guardian Form**

**The Bone Student Center is located at 100 N. University St.
Normal, IL.**

Registration Information

Competitors must be registered through their school or program by an advisor. The advisor can be a teacher of the deaf, general education teacher, special education teacher, educational interpreter, or principal. Parents interested in having their child participate should contact their proper educational representative.

Each school/program may register **up to five competitors in each group**, with a **maximum of ten competitors** (five from Group A- 5th and 6th graders, five from Group B- 7th and 8th graders). Schools/programs entering the maximum number of students in one or both groups may also select an alternate to compete if one of the five competitors is unable to attend the state bee.

The following procedures must be followed for participation in the Illinois Fingerspelling Bee.

1. The advisor must fill out the registration form, listing the competitor(s) participating.
2. Along with the registration form, a parent consent form must be submitted for each competitor and alternate. This form indicates understanding of the procedures for the competition and gives permission for participation. A student will not be allowed to compete without receipt of a parent consent form by the deadline.
3. **A complete entry includes a registration form, a parent consent form, and an advisor agreement. All forms must be received by ITHI no later than Friday, March 11, 2017.**
4. Competitors must participate in a local fingerspelling bee **prior** to the Illinois Fingerspelling Bee event in order to gain experience and practice. This does not need to be a formal contest but should be conducted utilizing the procedures of the Illinois Fingerspelling Bee. Please read **Hosting a Local Fingerspelling Bee** for information on holding this preliminary contest.

Eligibility Requirements

Competitors must have a hearing loss and be enrolled in a school in Illinois. We invite competitors from any type of educational setting, including, but not limited to, residential, mainstreamed, public, or private school. For example, competitors can be mainstreamed or in self contained classrooms, with a full-time teacher, with an interpreter, or an itinerant teacher.

Competitors with a hearing loss are able to participate in the event regardless of their communication method; however, all words at the Fingerspelling Bee will be presented only in sign language using the designated signs and without voice. The appropriate signs can be found on YouTube at the addresses noted below. All students will be given the same opportunity to learn the provided signs. Definitions and sentences will be available in a written format during the competition.

Eligibility and categorization are based upon grade level. Competitors must not be beyond eighth grade or below fifth grade, regardless of age.

Group A: 5th and 6th graders

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHnFQ3869Rw>

Group B: 7th and 8th graders

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUxdWGBB9yE>

Tiebreaker List

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79hms9JYvYo>

Parental permission is mandatory for participation in the Illinois Fingerspelling Bee. All entries must include a signed parent consent form as well as an advisor agreement form by March 11, 2017.

Rules and Procedures

These procedures must be utilized at all level fingerspelling bees and at the Illinois Fingerspelling Bee.

A. Definition of Roles

1. **Competitors** are students competing in the event
2. **Advisors** are those who will work with the competitors on the word lists, study the appropriate signs from the word list, and accompany the competitor to the event.
3. The **Word Presenter** signs the selected word from the designated list using only the designated signs.
4. **Judges** are those who decide if a competitor has spelled the presented word correctly. They tell the competitors to be seated or to leave the stage depending on the accuracy of the spelled words.
5. A **Timekeeper** will allow each competitor 30 seconds to spell a given word once understanding of the word has been demonstrated by the competitor.
6. **Interpreters** provided at the event will **NOT** serve as interpreters for competitors during the competition.
7. The **Master of Ceremonies** introduces and officially starts the event. This person will inform the competitors and audience what to expect during the bee.

B. Preparation

1. Competitors may access a copy of a word list in advance to study. Competitors should work with advisors to learn the words and study appropriate signs, definitions, and sentences.
2. A video will be provided, via YouTube, which will provide all the competitors with the same signs.

Group A: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHnFQ3869Rw>

Group B: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUxdWGBB9yE>

Tiebreaker: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79hms9JYvYo>

C. Protocol

1. All competitors will be seated together by group in the competition area. Taking turns, each competitor shall step forward and stand before the judges.
2. There will be two separate competitions- Group A for 5th and 6th graders and Group B for 7th and 8th graders. Group A will compete first, while Group B participants sit in the audience. After the winner of Group A has been determined, Group B shall compete while Group A participants sit in the audience.
3. There will be three judges and a timekeeper.
4. Floor monitors will watch the audience to assure that no assistance is offered to competitors. Any audience member discovered communicating with a competitor will be asked to leave and the competitor will be disqualified.
5. Event interpreters will provide communication assistance as needed for the judges, presenters, advisors, competitors, audience, and media. However, event interpreters will **NOT** provide interpretation of the spelling words to competitors during the competition.
6. Event interpreters will be positioned to be out of the line of vision of the competitors during the competition, so as to not cause a distraction.
7. Event interpreters will neither fingerspell nor voice the words during the competition, nor will they voice the competitors' spelling of the words. They will only sign the words given by the word presenter to the audience.
8. All competitors must remain in the auditorium for the entire event, and may not leave until after the award ceremony has been completed.

D. Competition

1. Words will be selected randomly from the published word lists. All words used during the competition will come from the designated word lists enclosed with the event packet and posted on the website of the Illinois Teachers of Hard of Hearing/Deaf Individuals (www.ithi.org). In the event that all words are used, comparable words from the Tiebreaker List will be given.
2. There will be one practice round; competitors will not be eliminated for misspellings during this round. The practice round is intended to

- reduce anxiety, give competitors a chance to “warm up”, and allow judges an opportunity to become acquainted with and adjust to fingerspelling styles. After the practice round, eliminations for misspelled words will begin.
3. The word will be signed by the word presenter. The competitor may request the word presenter to repeat the word. He/she may also ask for the definition or sentence, which will then be projected in a written format to eliminate all confusion.
 4. Once the competitor understands the word, he/she must sign word before fingerspelling it.
 5. After signing the word, the competitor has 30 seconds to fingerspell. The judges may disqualify any contestant ignoring the request to start spelling.
 6. The competitor must fingerspell the word to the judges. If the fingerspelling is unclear, the word will be considered incorrect.
 7. The competitor may fingerspell the word behind his/her back to “test” the spelling before spelling it in view of the judges. The competitor may not turn away from the judges, cover up fingerspelling with the other hand, or use other modes to test the spelling before presenting the word to the judges.
 8. Once the competitor has begun to spell the word, he/she may stop and start over if necessary; but in retracing the word, there cannot be a change in the letters or the sequence of letters from the first attempt. If there is such a change, the competitor will be eliminated.

Example 1: beautiful B-E-A...<repeated> B-E-A-U-T-I-F-U-L (Accepted)

Example 2: beautiful B-E-U repeated> B-E-A-U-T-I-F-U-L (Eliminated)

9. The judges shall have the final decision in regard to the spelling of a word or the elimination of a competitor.

E. Elimination

1. Elimination shall occur on a “miss and out” basis- if a word is misspelled; the competitor is immediately dropped from the contest.
2. After fingerspelling the word, the competitor shall remain standing until informed by the judges as to the accuracy of the spelling. If correct, the competitor is seated until his/her next turn. If incorrect, the competitor leaves the competition area and sits in the audience.

3. Upon misspelling a word, the competitor is eliminated. Words from the appropriate list are given at random until there are only two competitors remaining.
4. When only two competitors remain, the elimination procedure changes. At this point, when one competitor misspells a word, the second competitor must spell that same word correctly. If the second competitor spells that word correctly, the competitor is then given a second word to spell. If the competitor spells the second word correctly, the competitor is declared the champion. In order to win, the competitor must spell two consecutive words correctly.
5. If the first competitor misspells a word, and the second competitor spells it correctly but then misspells the second word, the misspelled word shall be given to the first competitor. If the first competitor spells this word correctly, and spells a second word correctly, that competitor is declared the champion.
6. If both competitors misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest; the first competitor is given a new word to spell. The contest shall continue until a competitor misspells a word and the other competitor spells two consecutive words correctly.
7. Only the advisors may question the spelling of a word. The advisor must express such concern or protest to the judges before the next word is presented. Once a competitor has begun spelling the next word, no protest will be accepted and considered by the judges.
8. After 7 consecutive rounds without elimination, the group word list will be exchanged for the tie breaker word list and competition will continue using that list until winners are determined.
9. In order to fairly determine a 3rd place winner, the following policy will be used if necessary: All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place. In the event that more than one speller is eliminated at the end of a round that leaves only two spellers, there will be a tie breaker round for a third place before continuing on with the remaining two championship round spellers. During a tie breaker round, each speller will be given the words from the list at random until a third place winner is determined.

F. Disqualifications

1. If a member of the audience is discovered fingerspelling to or otherwise assisting a competitor, the competitor shall immediately be disqualified.

G. Awards

1. First, second, and third place winners in each group will receive an award. All competitors will receive certificates.
2. Pictures will be taken of all participants. Pictures and names of students may appear in various forms of public media, on the ITHI, IDHHC, and/or IRRC websites and in the ITHI journal.

Hosting a Local Fingerspelling Bee

Schools/programs are required to hold a local fingerspelling bee utilizing the procedures as outline. The purpose is to determine representatives for the Illinois Fingerspelling Bee, and to give students the experience to prepare for the statewide event. The local bee does not need to be a formal contest, but must be conducted utilizing the procedures of the statewide bee for the benefit of the student (s).

1. The judge for the local bee should preferably be a person who knows sign language- a teacher of the Deaf, supervisor of Deaf Education, a Deaf Service Coordinator, and a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf, and interpreter, or a Deaf person from the community. Have at least one judge, but two or three if possible.
2. Have students compete in front of an audience. Invite parents and/or other teachers, students, community members, etc. This will give students the experience of spelling in front of an audience.
3. Competition at the local level should take place using the same grade groups as the state bee.
4. Have the word presenter give the words utilizing the given word list and signs.
5. Depending on the number of students involved, determine the first, second, and third place finalists. If five or fewer students compete, all will be eligible for the statewide bee.
6. If a school/program enters the maximum of five competitors in one or both groups, and a sixth student may be designated as an alternate competitor for the state bee. This individual may compete in the statewide bee only if one of the original five finalists is unable to attend. If a school/program chooses to have an alternate, all necessary registration and consent forms must be submitted for that student prior to the deadline, specifying him/her to be an alternate.
7. The local fingerspelling bee must be completed prior to the registration deadline on Friday March 11, 2017 so necessary forms can be submitted.



2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee Registration Form

Name of School/Program: _____

School/Program Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Group A (5th and 6th Graders)

Advisor: _____

Competitor _____ Competitor _____

Competitor _____ Competitor _____

Competitor _____ Alternate* _____

Group B (7th and 8th Graders)

Advisor: _____

Competitor _____ Competitor _____

Competitor _____ Competitor _____

Competitor _____ Alternate* _____

* See **Hosting a Local Fingerspelling Bee** for details on designating an alternate.

This form must be submitted with a signed parent consent form and an advisor agreement form. All forms must be received by Friday March 11, 2017.

Christa Kelley, ITHI Fingerspelling Bee Co-Chair

2125 W. 183rd St. Apt. 202

Homewood, IL 60430

valencia.christa@gmail.com



2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee Advisor Agreement Form

I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the rules and procedures for the 2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee which will be held Wednesday, April 26th, 2017 at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University in Normal, IL. I understand the Illinois Teachers of Hard of Hearing/Deaf Individuals is not responsible for any costs incurred neither for participation nor for transportation to/from the event.

I have explained the rules, procedures, and requirements to the competitor(s) and the parent(s) or guardians(s) and believe that they understand and will comply with the requirements of participation.

As an advisor, I will work with the competitor on the word list and accompany him/her to the event. I understand my role as an advisor.

Advisor Name _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Competitor Name(s) _____

School/Program _____

School Phone Number _____

Advisor Signature _____

All forms must be received by Friday March 11, 2017.

Christa Kelley, ITHI Fingerspelling Bee Co-Chair
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2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee Parent/Guardian Consent Form

I have read and understand and rules and procedure of the 2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee which will be held on Wednesday, April 26th, 2017 at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University in Normal, IL. I understand the Illinois Teachers of Hard of Hearing/Deaf Individuals is not responsible for any costs incurred neither for participation nor for transportation to/from the event.

I understand that there will be media involved on the day of the event and it is a possibility my child may be photographed, videotaped, filmed, identified by name, and/or interviewed by various media outlets during the event. I give my consent for the Illinois Teachers of Hard of Hearing/Deaf Individuals to use such items for future media purposes. Pictures will be taken of all participates. Pictures and names of students may appear in various forms of public media, on the websites of the Illinois Teachers of Hard of Hearing/Deaf Individuals (ITHI), the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission and/or the Illinois Service Resource Center and in the ITHI journal.

By signing and submitting the form, I understand and accept all conditions stated above for the 2017 Illinois Fingerspelling Bee.

Student Name _____

Student Address _____

Student School _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

All forms must be received by Friday March 11, 2017.

Christa Kelley, ITHI Fingerspelling Bee Co-Chair
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