

36th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **36th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C., on June 12–13, 1963, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

13-year-old eighth-grader Glen Van Slyke III of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, sponsored by the Knoxville News Sentinel, won the competition in 33 rounds, correctly spelling the final word *equipage*. His strategy involved spelling very slowly to ensure accuracy as well as asking for derivations and roots of every word. Second place went to Elaine Piecuch (age 14) of Winslow, Maine, who failed to correctly spell *biliousness*, followed in third by Gary Barringer (age 14) of East Liverpool, Ohio. The top prizes were \$1000, \$500, and \$250.

There were 69 contestants this year, 39 girls and 30 boys.^[2] Nine came from Texas, eight from Ohio, six from Pennsylvania, and five from New York. Four spellers were return contestants.^[3]

A record number of 752 words were used in the competition, besting the prior year's record of 718.^{[4][5][6][7][2]}

References

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- (14 June 1963). He Wins Spelling Bee (photo) (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=950&dat=19630614&id=HuluAAAIBAJ&sjid=61YDAAAIBAJ&pg=5936,1821178>), *Evening Independent*

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The Mayflower Hotel, site of the 36th National Spelling Bee

Date	June 12–13, 1963
Location	The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. ^[1]
Winner	Glen Van Slyke III
Age	13
Residence	Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Sponsor	<i>Knoxville News Sentinel</i>
Sponsor location	Knoxville, Tennessee
Winning word	equipage
No. of contestants	69
Pronouncer	Richard R. Baker
Preceded by	35th Scripps National Spelling Bee
Followed by	37th Scripps National Spelling Bee

7. (13 June 1963). National Spelling Bee Nearing Finals (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=348&dat=19630613&id=egouAAAIBAJ&sjid=WDEDAAAIBAJ&pg=4944,4853203&hl=en>), *Rome News-Tribune* (UPI) (Update article on status of bee as second day started; Notes for 47th-53rd to drop out)
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