

# 42nd Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **42nd Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. at the Mayflower Hotel on June 4–5, 1969, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

The winner was 14-year-old Susan Yoachum of Texas, an 8th grade student at Hill Junior High School in Dallas, with the winning word "interlocutory". Yoachum later became a well-regarded journalist, rising to the post of political editor at the San Francisco Chronicle. She died of breast cancer at age 43 in June 1998.<sup>[1]</sup>

Second place went to 14-year-old Margaret Matthees of Huntsville, Alabama, who fell on "egalitarian". David Groisser, age 12, of Brooklyn, finished third, misspelling "quoits" as "quytes".

First prize was \$1000, second was \$500, and third was \$250.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

There were 73 contestants this year. In the first day of competition, 464 words were used over nine rounds and the field was reduced to 23 participants.<sup>[4]</sup> A total of 571 words were used by the end.<sup>[5]</sup>

## References

- ↑ (23 June 1998). *Susan Yoachum*, S.F. Chronicle (<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Susan-Yoachum-S-F-Chronicle-3082579.php>), *San Francisco Chronicle*
- ↑ (5 June 1969). *Texas Girl Captures Spelling Bee* (<http://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%2018/Troy%20NY%20Times%20Record/Troy%20NY%20Times%20Record%201969/Troy%20NY%20Times%20Record%201969%20-%202238.pdf>), *Troy Times Record* (UPI)
- ↑ (6 June 1969). *Dallas Girl, 14, Wins National Spelling Contest with 'Luck'* (<http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1969/06/06/page/12/article/dallas-girl-14-wins-national-spelling-contest-with-luck>), *Chicago Tribune*
- ↑ (5 June 1969). *Name Dallas Girl Spelling Champ* (<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/69592073/>), *El Paso Herald-Post*
- ↑ Macino, Richard L. (2 June 1970). *Champ Finds D.C. Capital Idea* (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1144&dat=19700602&id=QkkqAAAAIBAJ&sjid=bIAEAAAAIBAJ&pg=7370,327305&hl=en>), *Pittsburgh Press*

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The Mayflower Hotel, site of the 42nd National Spelling Bee

<b>Date</b>	June 4–5, 1969
<b>Location</b>	The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.
<b>Winner</b>	Susan Yoachum
<b>Age</b>	14
<b>Residence</b>	Dallas, Texas
<b>Sponsor</b>	<i>Dallas Morning News</i>
<b>Sponsor location</b>	Dallas, Texas
<b>Winning word</b>	interlocutory
<b>No. of contestants</b>	73
<b>Pronouncer</b>	Richard R. Baker
<b>Preceded by</b>	41st Scripps National Spelling Bee
<b>Followed by</b>	43rd Scripps National Spelling Bee

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**This page was last edited on 4 February 2019, at 10:57 (UTC).**

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