

44th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **44th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. at the Mayflower Hotel on June 9–10, 1971, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.^[2]

Jonathan Knisely of Mullica Hill, New Jersey won the competition, sponsored by the Philadelphia Bulletin. He was followed by Susan O'Malley, 13, of Arizona in second place (misspelling "gigot" as starting with a "j"), and Carolyn Cross of Stow, Ohio in third.^{[3][4]}

There were 77 contestants this year, 53 girls and 24 boys. The competition lasted 17 rounds, with O'Malley missing the first word she received once the field was narrowed down to two.^[1] A total of 633 words were used.^[5]

Knisely was the first resident of New Jersey to win the national bee, which would not claim another winner until the 2006 bee.^[6] Knisely's brother Alexander finished 17th in the 1967 bee.^[4]

Knisely appears in the 2002 documentary Spellbound, where he says "I don't think [winning] really helped me in my love life — my nascent love life. I mean, something like that could be considered something of a liability."^[7]

References

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- ↑ (12 June 1971). National Spelling Bee Winners Honored (<https://new s.google.com/newspapers?nid=1755&dat=19710612&id=2TwgAAAAIBAJ&sjid=XGYEAAAAIBAJ&pg=4694,3547248&hl=en>), *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*
- ↑ (10 June 1971). If you can spell 'gigot' you're king (<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=DS19710610.2.9#>), *Desert Sun*
- ↑ What Do You Want to Know about the National Spelling Bee (<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED097722.pdf>) (National Spelling Bee 1974)
- ↑ Capuzzo, Jill (3 June 2006). For New Jersey 8th Grader, 'Ursprache' Means Fame (<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/03/nyregion/03bee.html>), *The New York Times*
- ↑ Keane, Meghan (7 May 2007). Take Heart, Weirdos (<http://www.nysun.com/arts/take-heart-weirdos/53918/>), *New York Sun*

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The Mayflower Hotel, site of the 44th National Spelling Bee

Date	June 9–10, 1971
Location	The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.
Winner	Jonathan Knisely
Age	12
Residence	Mullica Hill, New Jersey
Sponsor	<i>Philadelphia Bulletin</i>
Sponsor location	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Winning word	shalloon
No. of contestants	77 ^[1]
Pronouncer	Richard R. Baker
Preceded by	43rd Scripps National Spelling Bee
Followed by	45th Scripps National Spelling Bee

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