

73rd Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **73rd Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. at the Grand Hyatt Washington on May 31 – June 1, 2000, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

Twelve-year-old George Abraham Thampy, from Saint Louis, Missouri won the competition by correctly spelling the word "demarche".^{[2][3][4]} Thampy had taken third place in the prior year's bee, and fourth place in the 1998 bee.^[4] He also took second place in the National Geography Bee a week before winning the Spelling Bee. Thampy was the second home-schooled student to ever win the Bee.^[5] The first was Rebecca Sealfon at the 1997 bee.^[6]

Second place went to 12-year old Sean Conley of Newark, California who missed "apotropaic". He went on to win the next year's Bee. Third place went to 14-year old Allison Miller of Niskayuna, New York, who missed "venire".^[5]

There were 248 spellers this year. 138 spellers were eliminated in the first day of competition. The first place prize was \$10,000, followed by \$5000 for second, and \$3000 for third place.^[1]

References

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- [1] (http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1901732_1901779_1901757,00.html)
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- Johnson, Sharon (2 June 2000). 'Xanadu' stops Utahn in national spelling bee - Home-schooled boy from Missouri wins (<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/763743/Xanadu-stops-Utahn-in-national-spelling-bee.html?pg=all>), *Desert News*
- (2 June 2000). H-O-M-E schooling spells a winner (<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2000/jun/2/20000602-011420-8826r/>), *The Washington Times*

73rd Scripps National Spelling Bee	
Date	May 31 – June 1, 2000
Location	Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, D.C.
Winner	George Abraham Thampy
Age	12
Residence	Maryland Heights, Missouri
Sponsor	<i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>
Sponsor location	St. Louis, Missouri
Winning word	demarche
No. of contestants	248 ^[1]
Pronouncer	Alex Cameron
Preceded by	72nd Scripps National Spelling Bee
Followed by	74th Scripps National Spelling Bee

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