



Contact: Jack Cormier
Polk County Tourism & Sports Marketing
jack@centralfloridasports.com
863-551-4709

Media Alert

For Immediate Release

15 counties, 50-plus schools in first Central Florida Spelling Bee

One of the largest spelling bees in the country will be held Friday

If you can't use logophile in a sentence – let alone spell it – chances are you aren't a contestant in the first Central Florida Spelling Bee.

On Feb. 8, the best spellers from more than 50 schools in 15 counties converge on the Lake Eva Event Center in Haines City. Contestants, all winners of their own school's spelling bee, will battle it out for the opportunity to represent Central Florida at the 92nd Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. The national bee runs from Sunday, May 26 to Friday, May 31.

The counties include Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Hernando, Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte – as well as Highlands, DeSoto, Hardee, Citrus, Indian River, Martin and St. Lucie.

The contest, hosted by WFTS-Tampa Bay ABC Action News personality Sean Daly, starts at 2 p.m. Each contestant will be given a word to spell until there is only a single logophile – or lover of words – left on the stage.

An initiative of the Polk County Board of County Commissioners, Central Florida's Polk County Sports Marketing is responsible for recruiting sporting events to Polk County and marketing the county as a venue for competitive sporting events and recreational sports such as golf, tennis, cycling and water skiing/boating. During the past year, 225 PCTSM events generated more than \$130 million in economic impact for Polk County. Polk County Tourism and Sports Marketing is Florida's only sports commission to be awarded both the coveted "Sports Commission of the Year" award by the Florida Sports Foundation.