

SWWC Service Cooperative's Regional Spelling Bee was held February 5 at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. Thirty-two students who won their local bees represented 26 districts across the region. They all came together to compete for the top four places that advance to the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee.

Scores from the written and oral rounds were combined to determine the top 15 students who would compete in the afternoon speldown. Due to tied scores, 17 spellers competed in the speldown. Brooklyn, Gavin and Melody battled it out for fourth and fifth place, with Jack and Peighton competing for the top two spots.

It was an exciting day with challenging words. After 16 rounds, the top four winners were declared and will advance to the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee on February 19 in Fergus Falls. The winner from the State Bee will then go on to the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.

2019 Regional Spelling Bee Winners

- 1st Place: Jack Gunn, grade 6, Marshall Middle School
- 2nd Place: Peighton Dandurand, grade 6, Central MN Christian School
- 3rd Place: Rachel Pixler, grade 6, Glencoe Silver Lake Lincoln Jr High – First Lutheran
- 4th Place: Gavin Starr, grade 8, Lester Prairie
- Alternate: Melody Filzen, grade 8, Renville County West

Schools in the SWWC 18-county service area were invited to participate in this academic enrichment activity sponsored by SWWC. The Multi-Region State Spelling Bee is sponsored by the following Minnesota Service Cooperatives: Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Northeast Service Cooperative, Northwest Service Cooperative, Resource Training & Solutions and SWWC Service Cooperative.

Sponsors for student enrichment programs provided by SWWC include:

- Title Sponsors: Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council (for Career Expo), The Schwan Food Company (for Culinary Skills Challenge) and Southwest Minnesota Arts Council (for Young Artists)
- Program Sponsors: Great River Energy, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc., Marshall Radio, Minnesota West Community & Technical College, Southwest Minnesota State University and SWWC
- Supporters: Hadley Lions Club and Nobles-Murray Rural Electric Trust
- Advocate: North Star Mutual Insurance Company

