



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## JACKSONVILLE SPORTS COUNCIL TO HOST FIRST COAST SPELLING BEE

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 14, 2017** — The Jacksonville Sports Council announced today that it will serve as host and continue the annual regional Spelling Bee which serves as the qualifier for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This is JAXSPORTS first year sponsoring this event which is in its 74 year.

As host of the event, JAXSPORTS has partnered with both the Florida Theatre and WJXT to provide a unique event experience for the participating spellers and patrons alike. The First Coast Spelling Bee will be hosted at the iconic Florida Theatre on Friday, March 9, 2018 and for the first time will be televised live in primetime on WJXT, Channel 4, The Local Station.

“JAXSPORTS is excited to host this signature community event that focuses on youth and education in Northeast Florida,” said JAXSPORTS Chairman, Charlie Tomm. “Our goal is to celebrate the time, hard work, and preparation that each of the students dedicate to their education.”

Local spellers will compete at both the school and district spelling bee prior to competing to be crowned the First Coast Spelling Bee champion. The First Coast Bee will pit the top two spellers from each of the fourteen districts against one another for a chance to represent the First Coast at Scripps National Spelling Bee. Last year’s regional winner, Sreeniketh Vogoti from Fruit Cove Middle School, placed 4<sup>th</sup> at last year’s Scripps National Spelling Bee.

“We welcome the Jacksonville Sports Council as a valued sponsor of our program,” said Paige Kimble, executive director of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. “The local spelling bee is an important community event and JAXSPORTS Council is committed to continuing the longstanding tradition of spelling bees for schools in their community. This is a wonderful example of how Jacksonville celebrates grit, achievement and the spirit of competition.”

The deadline to register to participate in the spelling be is December 15<sup>th</sup> and the early bird discount will be offered to schools who register prior to that date. For more information or to register your school, visit [www.jaxsports.com](http://www.jaxsports.com).

### **About JAXSPORTS Council**

JAXSPORTS is a membership-based organization that was established to showcase Northeast Florida as a sports destination for professional, amateur and youth sports. JAXSPORTS is a member of the National Association of Sports Commissions and the Florida Sports Foundation. For up-to-date information on and access to local sporting events, the public is encouraged to become a member of JAXSPORTS.

More information is available at [jaxsports.com](http://jaxsports.com).

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