



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

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Ozark National Scenic Riverways News Release

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Van Buren and East Carter Elementary Students Compete in Old Fashioned Spelling Bee at Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Van Buren, MO – As depicted in the new visitor center exhibit “Ozark One Room Schools”, fourth graders from Van Buren and East Carter Elementary Schools experienced an old fashioned spelling bee hosted by Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

In the modern age of technology, most people rely on Spell Check to review bothersome spelling errors. These spelling bee participants were not given this luxury. Words such as “astronaut”, “internet” and “computer” weren’t on their list of spelling words. All the words used in the spelling bee were found in the Eclectic Spelling Book published by McGuffey’s in 1879. By memorizing and spelling these words, students had a true sense of the classroom environment and spelling tests of 100 years ago.

The competition for local notoriety was fierce. Each school has a class “spell off” to determine the 30 students who would compete in the final round on March 30th. After tense moments, hopeful glances, and sighs of relief Nicole Hart from Van Buren won first place of a Kindle Fire. Second place went to Brett O’Dell from East Carter. Conner Jackson from Van Buren took third place.

For more information, phone (573) 323-4236 during business hours Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm or visit the park’s website at www.nps.gov/ozar. Ozark National Scenic Riverways preserves the free-flowing Current and Jacks Fork Rivers, the surrounding natural resources, and the unique cultural heritage of the Ozark people.

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“Ozark One Room Schools” Exhibit



Photo left to right: Connor Jackson (3rd place), Nicole Hart (1st place), Brett O’Dell (2nd place) and Cathy Runge, Big Spring District Interpreter, ONSR