

## 2013 National SCRABBLE Championship Wrapup

The 2013 National SCRABBLE Championship held July 20-24 at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, NV is in the books! Over 500 players participated in the five-day tournament, and spent their nights at official and unofficial activities, enjoying each other and all that Las Vegas had to offer.

Kevin Belinkoff, Vice President of Hasbro Studios, attended as a worker and as a player. He was busy overseeing Leftfield Productions, who were shooting for a proposed reality-based TV show, while accumulating a 17-13-1 record -- good enough for 24th place in the 95 person 4th Division, in his first ever NSC!

Congratulations to the 2013 National SCRABBLE Champion, Nigel Richards, on claiming his 5th NSC title in 6 years and an unprecedented 4th in a row. Nigel came close a number of times before winning the championship, and since winning that first one, has shown the resolve to continue an amazing streak. It will take someone's very best to unseat him.

Congratulations to our other division winners:

Division 2 – Mark Rosenberg  
Division 3 – Andy Hoang  
Division 4 – Daniel Moglen  
Collins Division – John O'Laughlin

An event of this magnitude can only be staged and pulled off by recruiting the extraordinary volunteers and staff that comprise the National SCRABBLE Championship team.

I am proud to list them all for you:

John Chew – Webmaster, Executive in Charge  
Alice Ching-Chew – Activities Codirector, Musicale Coordinator  
Connie Creed – Director/Life Member Reception Coordinator, Crystal Awards for Winners  
Tim Crotty – Division 1 Data Entry  
Reese Daniel – Division 2/Collins Data Entry  
Brian Galebach – Tag-Team Tourney Director  
Robin Gates – Activities Codirector  
Sue Grogan-Johnson – Assistant to the Director  
Jeremy Hildebrand – T-shirt Designer  
Patty Hocker – Internet Photographer  
Jason Idalski – Collins Division Leader  
Dallas Johnson – Tournament Director, Director Meeting and SWOT Analysis Moderator  
Katya Lezin – Book Reading speaker  
Jean McArthur – Division 3 Assistant  
John Merlau – Division 1 Assistant  
Arthur Moore – Division 4 Leader

Diane Moore – Division 4 Assistant  
Pablo Moreno – Collins Division Assistant  
Bryan Pepper – Division 2 Leader  
John Robertson – Division 1 Leader, Trivia Contest Organizer and Proctor  
Sherrie Saint John – Internet Reporter  
Jackson Smylie – Annotator  
Alan Stern – Master of Ceremonies  
Dan Stock – Division 3 Leader  
Shelley Ubeika – Division 2 Assistant  
Kate Watson - Annotator  
Chris Wiegand – Division 3/4 Data Entry

And a huge “thank you” to the countless volunteers who helped with set up and tear down, registration, tidying divisions, providing challenge computers, and helping with other tasks that make the NSC run smoothly.

Thanks as well to our sponsors for this event:

Hasbro – media relations  
Merriam-Webster - Noah Webster monogram hats; Visual Dictionary prizes  
SCRABBLE, The Art! Studio Remy - SCRABBLE artwork prizes  
Winning Moves – Games – approximately 350 different games  
SamTimer – 2 Samboards  
Mike Baron - Wordbook and 30 laminated Cheat Sheets  
Stefan Fatsis - Three copies of “Word Freak: 10th Anniversary” and 10 copies of the “Word Freak” eBook  
Paul McCarthy - Two copies of “Letterati”  
Rich Ekstrom - 8 copies of the “Back Words Dictionary”  
Southwest Displays - storage, delivery and setup

We are already planning the 2014 National SCRABBLE Championship to be held August 9-13, 2014 at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center adjoining our host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Buffalo Hotel and Conference Center. Registration will open next January.

NASPA wishes to continually improve upon its performance in its never-ending quest to put on the perfect event. Please help us in this regard by filling out the online feedback form located at [www.tinyurl.com/NSC2013Survey](http://www.tinyurl.com/NSC2013Survey)

Let’s shuffle off to Buffalo for the 2014 NSC!

Chris Cree