

# What is Lights On Afterschool?

*Lights On Afterschool* is the only national celebration of afterschool programs. Hosting an event is a great way to inspire support for your program and others across the country. With more than 8,000 events participating nationwide bringing together more than one million Americans, *Lights On Afterschool* shines a powerful light on your afterschool programs' accomplishments.

## Lights On Afterschool Facts

*Lights On Afterschool* is celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families and communities.

In America today 11.3 million children are alone and unsupervised after school. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families, and inspire learning. They provide opportunities to help young people develop into successful adults.

*Lights On Afterschool* was launched in October 2000 with celebrations in more than 1,200 communities nationwide. The event grew in 2001 to more than 3,600 events, and more than 8,000 in 2017. This October, more than 1 million Americans will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*.

*Lights On Afterschool* is a project of the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. The Afterschool Alliance salutes the many *Lights On Afterschool* partners and programs who make this event a success, in particular the After-School All-Stars, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, 4-H Afterschool, YMCA of the USA and the thousands of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers nationwide.