



Afterschool Alliance

MEDIA ALERT
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From Coast to Coast and Overseas, Parents, Students, Educators, Community Leaders and Policy Makers Rally to Keep the *Lights On Afterschool*

There's a *Lights On Afterschool* Event in Your Community

On October 16, more than a million people across the United States and at military installations worldwide will participate in street fairs, open houses, fun runs, science and math competitions and more to celebrate the ninth annual *Lights On Afterschool*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs.

More than 7,500 events are being held in schools, shopping malls, museums and other venues. In honor of the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families, the Empire State Building will be lit up in yellow on the evening of October 16.

San Francisco kicked off *Lights On Afterschool* this year with a T-Mobile Huddle Up event on October 2 at the Whitney Young Child Development Center. More than 150 T-Mobile employees spent the morning revitalizing the Center and then joined an afternoon rally at the Center in support of afterschool programs.

Actress Rhea Perlman is a spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool*, and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair – a position he has held since 2001. This year's rally also marks the end of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, the largest federal funding stream for afterschool programs.

A list with descriptions of hundreds of events is online at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaEvents2008.pdf>. For a complete list of the more than 7,500 events, please visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaFindEvent.cfm>.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.