



Afterschool Alliance

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Seniors' Groups, Physical Fitness Advocates, Fine Arts Institutions Join Nonprofits, Corporations and Policy Makers In Supporting National Rally for Afterschool

Afterschool programs not only give children safe, educational, fun activities after the school day ends, they also expose them to community service, the arts, sports, music and much more. In October, more than one million people are expected to participate in *Lights On Afterschool*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs, and many of them represent the organizations, associations and institutions that work with afterschool programs to give children access to activities that may not be available during the school day. More than 200 diverse national organizations are supporting the Afterschool Alliance's ninth annual *Lights On Afterschool* celebration on October 16, from AARP to KidzArt to Soccer in the Streets.

Lights On Afterschool will include student performances, runs and walks, "lego league" events, open houses, art and essay contests, art displays, tree lightings, carnivals, and much more. They are organized by afterschool providers – 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs as well as those affiliated with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, YMCA of the USA, Junior Achievement, 4-H Afterschool, The After-School Corporation, Young Rembrandts and others.

"Afterschool programs engage the whole child, helping students learn new skills, acquire new talents and become better citizens," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "Our *Lights On Afterschool* partners represent diverse institutions that not only support afterschool programs, but also benefit from them. We are delighted to have their support as we rally for the programs that keep kids safe, help working families and inspire students to learn."

A list of 2008 partner organizations is available online at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaNatPartners.cfm>

The 2008 rally will include 7,500 events throughout the nation and at United States military bases worldwide. In all, a million people are expected to participate. For the second year in a row, the Empire State Building in New York City will be lit up for *Lights On Afterschool*. Actress Rhea Perlman is a spokesperson, and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair – a position he has held since 2001.

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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.