



NEWS RELEASE
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Cities Coast to Coast to Celebrate *Lights On Afterschool This October*

From Sacramento to New York and everywhere in between, children, parents, educators, community leaders and others will come together to rally for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, help working families and inspire students to learn this October.

At the State Capitol in Sacramento, California, roughly 500 parents, kids, afterschool staff and policy makers will join the State Superintendent of Schools, the head of the California Department of Education's Learning Supports Division and local law enforcement to show their support for afterschool programs. The event will feature student performances including an afterschool band and a dance troupe, and an awards ceremony for after school programs and staff.

The City of Columbia, South Carolina, Richland School District One, Junior Achievement, the South Carolina Afterschool Alliance, and EdVenture Children's Museum will cosponsor a Legislative Breakfast in Columbia on October 16 to call attention to the need for more afterschool programs in the state. State legislators and afterschool providers from across the state will attend the Breakfast at the EdVenture Children's Museum.

In Palm Beach, Florida, afterschool staff, parents, kids and others with the Prime Time afterschool program will educate lawmakers about the need for more afterschool programs with banners created by parents and kids at a Family Fun Fair October 10 through 12. On October 16, they will release a 2008 State of Afterschool Palm Beach County report based on a survey of kindergarten through eighth grade school district parents and guardians.

In Evansville, Indiana, more than 3,000 city residents are expected to turn out to rally for afterschool programs and enjoy fireworks, food, games, prizes and entertainment at Bosse Field, where "Field of Dreams" was filmed.

In New York City on October 16, The After-School Corporation (TASC), Harlem RBI's REAL Kids Program and Global Kids will hold a citywide open house and showcase for hundreds of kids and parents to highlight the skills and talents students develop in afterschool programs.

Also in New York, for the second year in a row, the Empire State Building will be lit up for *Lights On Afterschool*. To find an event in your state and city, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaFindEvent.cfm>.

Lights On Afterschool 2008 will mark the end of a year-long celebration of the 10th anniversary of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs.

The 2008 rally will include 7,500 events throughout the nation and at United States military bases around the world. In all, a million people are expected to participate. In the United States today, more than 14 million children have no place to go after the school day ends.

Lights On Afterschool was launched in October 2000. Actress Rhea Perlman is the spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool* and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair, a position he has held since 2001.

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.

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