



NEWS RELEASE
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Coming to Your Town: The *Lights On Afterschool* “Traveling Light Bulb” Tour

The Afterschool Alliance today announced many of the cities that will be included in the first-ever *Lights On Afterschool* Traveling Light Bulb Tour. The giant, inflatable light bulb and an accompanying special mural for children’s art debuted on September 30 at a rally for afterschool in Dallas, Texas, headquarters of JCPenney, and is heading across the country. The JCPenney Afterschool Fund is the National Presenting Sponsor of the sixth annual *Lights On Afterschool*, the nation’s largest rally for afterschool programs.

The Traveling Light Bulb Tour will make stops in Southwestern, Midwestern, Southern and Northern states during the first three weeks in October, on its way to Washington, D.C. The mural will be an ever-changing testament to the creativity and talent of afterschool students, with students in each city on the tour adding their own artwork to the mural. The tour will end on October 20 when the light bulb and mural arrive at the U.S. Capitol.

“The traveling light bulb mural will bring children’s art to our national policy makers, showcasing some of the wonderful things that happen in afterschool programs,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Whether they live in Albuquerque, Chicago, Wichita or Miami, kids everywhere need afterschool programs.”

The Traveling Light Bulb tour cities and dates announced today are:

9/30 – Plano and Dallas, TX	10/11 – Marshalltown, IA
10/2 - Los Angeles, CA	10/13 – Dayton, OH
10/3 – San Jose, CA	10/14 – Chicago, IL
10/4 – Tucson, AZ	10/17 Charlotte, NC/ Albany, NY
10/5 – Albuquerque, NM	10/18 – Miami, FL
10/6 – Colorado Springs, CO	10/20 – Washington, DC
10/7 – Wichita, KS	

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Lights On Afterschool was launched in October 2000 with 1,200 events across the country. Last year, more than half a million people rallied at 7,000 events to show their support for afterschool programs. Actress Rhea Perlman is the National Spokesperson for Lights On Afterschool for the third year in a row. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair of *Lights On Afterschool*, a position he has held since 2001.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children have access to afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports programs designed to keep kids safely and constructively engaged during out-of-school time. The Fund's contributions allow for the creation and continuance of afterschool programs aimed at the academic, physical, and social development of children throughout the U.S. The JCPenney Afterschool Fund also works to raise awareness of the benefits of afterschool programming, and is committed to ensuring that every child has access to the world of opportunities that awaits them after school.

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