



MEDIA ALERT
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Americans Rally to Keep the Lights on Afterschool From Falls Church to Fairbanks This Week

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

On October 12, at schools and community centers, on soccer fields, in churches, and at fair grounds, malls and other venues, a million people will rally for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

At more than 7,500 events around the country – and at military bases in Germany, Japan and elsewhere – students, parents, educators, business and religious leaders, lawmakers and community members will come together to celebrate the seventh annual *Lights On Afterschool*. The nationwide rally for afterschool is organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

The Chair of *Lights On Afterschool* California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Actors Rhea Perlman and Kevin Sorbo are national spokespeople for the event. *Lights On Afterschool* kicked off this weekend with rallies in Washington, DC and Los Angeles, California.

More than 40 Governors and hundreds of mayors have declared October 12 *Lights On Afterschool Day*, and both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed resolutions supporting *Lights On Afterschool*.

On Thursday, October 12, in conjunction with *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance will release in-depth results from a web-based survey of more than 2,000 afterschool programs, conducted late this summer. It explores programs' funding sources and security, what children programs are serving, what supports and activities they offer, and much more. In addition to national findings, results will be available for 15 states at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

Descriptions of select *Lights On Afterschool* events around the country are available online at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/events.cfm. A full list of the 7,500 events is available at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/find.cfm.

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 by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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