



MEDIA ALERT
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Millions to Rally for Afterschool Programs This Week During 14th Annual *Lights On Afterschool*

In Selma, Alabama on Thursday, students in the Police Athletic League afterschool program will participate in a talent contest and community leaders will act as judges. In Belfast, Maine, the 4-H Afterschool RSU20 program will hold an “All Things that Glow” event highlighting science, technology, engineering and math activities students have engaged in. In East Boston, Massachusetts, students will exhibit artwork and share short stories about superheroes they created. In Portland, Oregon, students at the Jackson Club will screen their summer film project, “The Quest of Illinois James.”

These are just a few of the more than 8,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events that will take place in nearly every community in the country, and at U.S. military bases worldwide, this week. The events, which run the gamut from showcasing science experiments to dance recitals to computer animation demonstrations to sports contests, are all part of the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* is now in its 14th year. More than a million people are expected to participate.

For the seventh year in a row, the Empire State Building will be lit up in yellow in support of afterschool programs. Earlier this month, the PBS program POV began airing the award-winning documentary film “Brooklyn Castle” to kick off the 2013 *Lights On Afterschool*. The film chronicles the story of a Brooklyn afterschool chess program, which has created the nation’s most winning chess team.

The Afterschool Alliance organizes *Lights On Afterschool* to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things – such as science, community service, robotics, Tae Kwon Do and poetry – and discover new skills. The events give youth a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their afterschool programs, and to send the message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs.

Several hundred event descriptions are at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaEvents2013.pdf>. To find an event in your community, 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.