



NEWS RELEASE
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Pasadena, Texas Student is the Artist Behind the 2012 *Lights On Afterschool* Poster

Fifteen-Year-Old Communities In Schools-ACE Student Created Winning Poster Being Used Nationwide

Afterschool programs are about sports, arts, exploration, friendship and much more. That's the message of the 2012 [Lights On Afterschool poster](#) designed by Felix Sanchez of Pasadena, Texas. Sanchez drew his winning artwork while he was a student in the Communities in Schools-ACE afterschool program. His design was selected out of thousands of submissions. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* is the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs and is now in its thirteenth year.

"This is the first competition that I've won and I was really surprised," said Sanchez. "I got the idea for the poster from everything we do in my afterschool program, which includes learning and playing and drawing. I hope that this poster will inspire more kids to participate in afterschool programs." Sanchez says he has been drawing since he was eight and learned to draw from his father.

The poster is available to download on the [Afterschool Alliance's website](#) and is being distributed around the country to all afterschool programs that register their *Lights On Afterschool* events. This year, on October 18, schools, community centers, parks, malls, state capitols and other settings will play host to more than 7,500 events at which youth have a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their afterschool programs, and send the message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs. More than one million people are expected to participate in *Lights On Afterschool* rallies again this year.

"Afterschool programs are all about our students," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "So it's only fitting that we use kids' artwork on the poster for Lights On Afterschool. This year's poster is a wonderful depiction of the activities quality afterschool programs provide to help children and youth learn, stay healthy and build friendships and social skills. We're extremely proud to share Felix's beautiful drawing with people all across the country."

This year, for the fifth year in a row, the Empire State Building will be lit in yellow as part of the nationwide rally.

For years, the federal investment in afterschool has lagged far behind the need for programs. In 2007, the *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized \$2.5 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool. Yet federal funding stands at less than half that today. Congress is currently considering legislation that would allow afterschool funds to be directed to other uses.

A significant body of research demonstrates that students who attend 21st CCLC afterschool programs regularly do better in school, and are more likely to graduate. . More than 15 million school-age children – more than one in four kids in the United States – are unsupervised after the school day ends. The parents of 18 million children say they would enroll their kids in afterschool programs – if programs were available.

To find a *Lights On Afterschool* event in your area, please 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.