



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **The Warm Glow of Afterschool**

### ***Empire State Building Will Be Lit in Yellow as Part of Nationwide Rally for Afterschool on October 17***

On the evening of October 17, for the seventh year in a row, the iconic Empire State Building will be lit up in yellow to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. This year will be the 14<sup>th</sup> year for *Lights On Afterschool*, which is organized by the Afterschool Alliance, and will be celebrated by students, parents, educators, policy makers and others in some 8,000 communities nationwide and at U.S. military bases overseas.

At schools, on the grounds of state capitols, in community centers, at street fairs, in malls, at parks, in science and art museums, and at any number of other venues, more than a million people will come together to celebrate the ways afterschool programs keep kids, safe inspire them to learn and help working families.

“We are proud to have this national landmark as a partner for *Lights On Afterschool*,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Every day, afterschool programs keep the lights on for students. And every October, we honor and celebrate all that they do for children and families. To have the Empire State Building celebrate with us for the seventh year in a row is a tribute to all the amazing work done in afterschool and the commitment of this institution to our nation’s kids and families.”

The Afterschool Alliance organized *Lights On Afterschool* to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things – such as robotics, Tae Kwon Do and art – 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.

According to a 2012 study conducted by the Afterschool Alliance, nearly two in five afterschool programs (39 percent) report that their budgets are in worse shape today than at the height of the recession in 2008, and more than three in five (62 percent) report that their funding is down “a little or a lot” from three years ago.

Many more students across the country need access to afterschool programs. 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.

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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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*