



NEWS RELEASE
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Organizations Focused on the Sciences, Sports, Law Enforcement and Youth Development, Businesses, Faith-Based Groups and Others Will Celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* This Month

KIND Provides Healthy Snacks for Lights On Afterschool Events

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than 200 diverse national, state and local organizations representing a wide range of interests are coming together this year to support and participate in the 19th annual *Lights On Afterschool*. The country's only national rally for afterschool programs is organized by the Afterschool Alliance and set for Thursday, October 25th.

One partner, KIND snacks, joined forces with the Afterschool Alliance and Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play to support the event by feeding healthy appetites. KIND has provided more than 400,000 KIND Kids™ bars as complimentary snacks for guests at *Lights On Afterschool* events around the country.

In addition to major afterschool program providers – including 4-H Afterschool, After-School All-Stars, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Camp Fire, Girls Inc., Think Together, the YMCA of the USA and others – the organizations supporting this year's rally include:

- The National League of Cities, which is encouraging mayors and other city leaders across the country to participate in events and issue proclamations in support of *Lights On Afterschool*;
- The National Recreation & Park Association, which represents many of the city and state parks and recreation departments that run afterschool programs and take part in *Lights On Afterschool*;
- The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, which is celebrating the role of afterschool in supporting reading proficiency at hundreds of *Lights On Afterschool* events around the country;
- The Association for Science-Technology Centers, which is encouraging science museums and centers to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* by providing hands-on learning activities for afterschool youth; and

- The National Association of Police Athletics/Activities Leagues (PAL), which runs afterschool programs nationwide that will hold *Lights On Afterschool* events.

More than 8,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events being planned nationwide. Participants will gather at community centers, malls, parks and recreation centers, state capitols, science museums and other venues to learn more about the many ways afterschool programs support students' success in school and in life.

For the 12th consecutive year, the New York skyline will shine for afterschool that evening when the iconic Empire State Building is lit in yellow to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*.

A large and growing body of evidence demonstrates improvements in attendance, behavior, academic achievement and more among children who participate in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement – an important building block for student success.

The America After 3PM household survey of 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide – but the unmet demand is great. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, two more are waiting to get in. Unmet demand is especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. One in five students in the United States is unsupervised after the school day ends.

[Peachjar](#) helps afterschool programs connect with families and is a generous sponsor of *Lights On Afterschool* this year.

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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.