



NEWS RELEASE
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U.S. Military Bases to Host *Lights On Afterschool* Events Next Week

19th Annual Rally for Afterschool to Include Events at Military Bases from Virginia to Hawaii

Military families throughout the United States and around the world rely on afterschool programs to keep their kids safe, inspire them to learn, give parents peace of mind, and provide homework help, mentors, college preparation, social and emotional learning, and opportunities for hands-on science and technology activities, sports and much more. Military families will be among the more than a million people who join [Lights On Afterschool](#) events this month.

The only nationwide rally for afterschool programs, *Lights On Afterschool* is organized by the [Afterschool Alliance](#). Among the events being held at U.S. military bases this year:

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Arizona: For *Lights On Afterschool*, Davis-Monthan Youth Programs in Tucson will have an open house and haunted gym Halloween celebration on October 25th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. There will be tours of the afterschool program, arts-and-crafts and a mini-haunted gym for children and families. There will also be a free membership raffle. Approximately 75 people are expected.

Kanehoe Bay, Hawaii: The Kulia Youth Center, Marine Corps Community Services afterschool program will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 25th from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. The Provost Marshall's Office will provide a presentation on Halloween safety, and a dance teacher will lead students in a Zumba exercise class. Parents will attend and healthy snacks will be served.

Mountain Home Air Force Base, Mountain Home, Idaho: For *Lights On Afterschool*, Mountain Home Air Force Base will hold an event on October 24th at 3:30 PM at the Youth Center. The event will start with an assembly at which older youth interview younger students about what afterschool programs mean to them. The Youth of the Year will also speak about how afterschool has affected her life. After the assembly, youth, parents and community members will participate in activities that are typical of what students do in the afterschool program, such as painting, robotics and photography.

Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana: Malmstrom Youth Programs are celebrating *Lights On Afterschool* at a fall festival on October 19th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. It features carnival games,

face painting and a craft area. The Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art is facilitating an activity, and an Airman Family Readiness Center community liaison is among the speakers. Some 500 people are expected.

Offut Air Force Base, Sarpy County, Nebraska: On October 25th at 3:30 PM, Offut Air Force Base Youth Programs will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* with a family night. Students and staff will compete in games including dodgeball, kickball, basketball and Nine Square in the Air. Approximately 80 children and their families are expected.

U.S. Army Fort Bragg, Cameron, North Carolina: The Chay Youth Activity center will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 26th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Youth will use “pro trainer” equipment to complete physical activities including relay races, strength and conditioning exercises, ball-throwing activities and more. Members of the fire department and police department may attend, and approximately 100 children and their families are expected.

Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: On October 25th from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, Tinker Youth Programs will host a family science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) night for *Lights On Afterschool*. Staff and youth will facilitate booths with hands-on STEM activities including mini volcanoes, surface tension experiments, catapults and more.

Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas: On October 25 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, Joint Base San Antonio Randolph Youth Programs will host an afterschool social for *Lights On Afterschool*. There will be games, roller skating, an ice cream social and crafts. Students will decorate *Lights On* lightbulbs, which will be displayed throughout the facility. The FSS flight chief and deputy director have been invited. Approximately 200 people are expected.

Fort Eustis Army Base, Newport News, Virginia: For *Lights On Afterschool*, Fort Eustis School Age Care will hold an open house on October 25th from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) room of the Youth Programs Building. Parents and children are invited to participate in various hands-on activities, including working together to code with robots and build Lego masterpieces. Approximately 50 people are expected.

For the 12th consecutive year, the iconic Empire State Building will be lit in yellow and blue on October 25th to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*.

The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide, up from 6.5 million in 2004. But the unmet demand for afterschool programs has increased as well. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available. Unmet demand is especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. One in five students in the country 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.

KIND snacks joined forces with the Afterschool Alliance and Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play to support *Lights On Afterschool* this year 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.

For a complete list of national *Lights On Afterschool* partners, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaNatPartners.cfm>. To find an 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.