



NEWS RELEASE
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U.S. Military Bases to Celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* This Week

16th Annual Rally for Afterschool to Include Events at Military Bases from Maryland to Hawaii to Sasebo, Japan

Military families in the United States and worldwide rely on afterschool programs to keep their kids safe, inspire them to learn and provide mentors, college preparation, workforce readiness and opportunities for hands-on science and technology activities, sports and much more. Military families across the United States and worldwide will be among the more than a million people who participate in *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:

Colorado Springs, Colorado: Falcon Trail Youth Center, United States Air Force Academy Students in Falcon Trail Youth Center's afterschool program will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* and National 4-H Science Day with a carnival on October 22nd. Kids will perform the 4-H motion commotion experiment and other STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities. There will also be tug-o'-war, potato sack races, three-legged races and carnival games, along with "minute-to-win-it" face-offs and arts and crafts. Parents and base leaders will have the opportunity to tour the youth center and learn how the afterschool program works. Some 90 people, in addition to the students, are expected.

Fort Shafter, Hawaii: Fort Shafter School Age & Youth Center
On October 22nd, the Fort Shafter Youth Center will host a *Lights On Afterschool* parade around the base to encourage parents to sign their teens up for the afterschool program. Students will design posters and pass out flyers at the library. Schools will highlight the computer classes, homework help, health and fitness activities, video games and sports available to teens. Staff will speak to parents at the Bowling Center about the benefits of the free afterschool program.

Honolulu, Hawaii: Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Teen Center
To celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*, the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Teen Center will hold an open house for families to learn more about the center and its youth programs. Teens and advising staff will give a show-and-tell about each of the center's clubs. The event will take place the evening of October 22nd.

Mountain Home, Idaho: Mountain Home Air Force Base Youth Center

For *Lights On Afterschool*, the Mountain Home Air Force Base Youth Center will hold an open house/carnival for students, parents and local leaders. The event will begin with a student presentation featuring a dance, song and slideshow of pictures and videos from the Youth Center's afterschool and summer programs. The videos will feature interviews with staff, parents and teachers. Parents will see a day in the afterschool program. Each activity room – art, homework, games, science and recreation – will get parents involved in a special event and will feature pictures and student projects. The celebration will be on October 21st.

Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland: Joint Base Andrews

Joint Base Andrews will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* with an open house for parents and members of various base agencies, including the fire department, family advocacy, family support, Exceptional Family Member Program and local school administrators. Guests will have a chance to see students participating in sports, tutoring, dance, arts, piano and martial arts. More than 200 families are expected at the October 22nd event.

Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma: Vance AFB Teen Center

The Vance Air Force Base Teen Center will hold a fall festival and open house to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*. Guests will participate in fall crafts, carve pumpkins, cook treats and enter a drawing to win prizes. The center's cooking club will provide snacks. The event will be held at the Teen Center on October 22nd.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington: McChord Youth Center

In honor of *Lights On Afterschool*, the McChord Youth Center will hold an open house to allow parents to see how their children's afterschool program works. Parents will tour the center and witness a day in the life of program participants, taking part in homework power hour and various STEM activities with their kids. There will be a build-your-own-taco bar for dinner. The open house will be held on October 22nd.

Sasebo, Japan: Yoko Nakayama, Main Base Youth Center

The Maine Base Youth Center will hold an open house on October 22nd to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*. Approximately 50 parents and students will enjoy board games, chess, musical hula hoops, Lego building, reading and drawing. There will be family art stations where kids and parents can make iron-on print tote bags, mummy lights and design-your-own neck straps. There will also be a technology station featuring eco car racing.

The Empire State Building will be lit up in yellow again this year, on October 22nd, in honor of afterschool programs.

The 2014 "[America After 3PM](#)" household survey, 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. One in five students in the United States today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

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.

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.