



NEWS RELEASE
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Kevin Sorbo to Serve as Afterschool Alliance Spokesperson, Headline 2005 'Afterschool for All Challenge'

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Kevin Sorbo, star of the science-fiction/action hour sensation, "Gene Roddenberry's *Andromeda*," is the newest spokesperson for the Afterschool Alliance, a national nonprofit organization working to give all children access to safe, enriching afterschool programs by the year 2010. Sorbo is well known for playing the title role in the hit television series, "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys."

"I am proud to serve as a spokesperson for the Afterschool Alliance, and to do whatever I can to promote the afterschool programs that children and families need," Sorbo said. "Every young person deserves a safe place to go after school, where they have opportunities to learn, be engaged with positive role models and become more physically active. For many, that place is an afterschool program. Unfortunately, too many kids are missing out. We must make afterschool programs accessible to all children. I'm excited to join the efforts of the Afterschool Alliance and today call on lawmakers to support afterschool programs."

A recent national household survey by the Afterschool Alliance found that more than 14.3 million children take care of themselves after the school day ends, but federal funding for afterschool programs has been flat, despite increases authorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

In his new role, Sorbo will help the Alliance promote afterschool programs. Next Wednesday, May 18, he will speak at the *Breakfast of Champions* as part of the fourth annual "Afterschool for All Challenge" in Washington, DC. The event will be at the Hyatt Regency, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW in Washington DC at 8:30 AM. It will include more than 500 parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country who will urge lawmakers to increase federal funding for afterschool. The event will feature Members of Congress, and three exemplary afterschool programs will receive awards.

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After the *Breakfast of Champions*, students, parents and educators will deliver tens of thousands of paper light bulbs with messages about afterschool that were sent by children and parents from all across the country. The messages urge lawmakers to fully fund the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, which is the federal government's chief funding stream for afterschool.

At 4 PM the same day, Sorbo will emcee "Afterschool Rocks the House" in the Rayburn House Office Building Cafeteria. The event will feature afterschool programs from around the country, and several Representatives will speak.

"We are delighted that Kevin Sorbo is joining the effort to increase access to high quality afterschool programs," said Afterschool Alliance Interim Director Jen Rinehart. "Kevin's longtime dedication to keeping kids safe, healthy and physically fit make him a fantastic spokesperson for afterschool. We look forward to working with him in the months and years to come."

In October, Sorbo will participate in *Lights On Afterschool*, the nation's largest rally for afterschool programs. In 2004, there were more than 7,000 *Lights On* events all across the country. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is the Chair of *Lights On Afterschool*, and actress Rhea Perlman has served as the *Lights On* spokesperson for the last two years.

Sorbo rose to international stardom in the title role of the hit series, "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys." He is also the spokesperson for "A World Fit for Kids," a non-profit organization that offers gang, drug and dropout prevention programming to kids at risk by providing mentoring training for teens and using them as positive role models for youngsters. In addition, Sorbo is involved with FAAN, The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network, promoting awareness and understanding of people affected by this disease.

A native of Mound, Minnesota, Sorbo enjoys golfing and snow skiing in his spare time. Sorbo and his wife reside in Nevada with their two sons, Braeden and Shane.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.