



Youth Afterschool Ambassador Program
A Project of the Afterschool Alliance

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Mountain Home High School Student One of Three Named Youth Afterschool Ambassadors in Country This Year

Timothy Hall Is Working to Raise Awareness About Afterschool Programs

Washington, D.C. – The [Afterschool Alliance](#) announced that Timothy Hall, a student at the Mountain Home Air Force Base Youth Center’s afterschool program and at Mountain Home High School, is serving in the 209 class of Youth Afterschool Ambassadors. Hall is one of three students from across the nation to be selected for the honor.

Hall’s mother, Lissa Hall, is the Director of Youth Programs at Mountain Home AFB, and an alumna of the Afterschool Alliance’s long-running Afterschool Ambassador program, geared toward afterschool providers. The Youth Afterschool Ambassador program, inaugurated in 2017, builds on the success of that program. Hall is working with her son on his Youth Afterschool Ambassador activities.

The three Youth Ambassadors share their perspectives on afterschool programs and the role these programs play in their communities. They write for [Afterschool Snack](#), the Afterschool Alliance blog, about the importance of afterschool and their experiences in programs. Earlier this summer, they traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the annual Afterschool for All Challenge, where they met with members of Congress and their aides.

Timothy Hall addressed Challenge participants at an Afterschool Showcase in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. “As a military child growing up, my parents had a crazy work schedule, but I was lucky because they never had to worry about my not being safe, because of my youth center,” he said. “As I grew older in the Youth Center, I saw many people going through hardships, parents being deployed, or orders to move halfway across the country.... I had my own hardships, but the Youth Center was always my fallback, and if it wasn’t for the Youth Center, I wouldn’t be here today speaking to you.” Other speakers at the event included U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and U.S. Reps. Bobby Scott (D-VA), Donna Shalala (D-FL), and Don Young (R-AK).

“We are absolutely delighted to have Timothy participate in the Youth Afterschool Ambassador program,” said Jodi Grant, Afterschool Alliance Executive Director. “He knows the value of afterschool programs from having participated in afterschool for more than a decade. In fact, since his mother is herself an afterschool leader and advocate, you could almost say afterschool

is in his blood. He understands that afterschool programs keep children safe, inspire them to learn, and give working parents peace of mind that their children are safe, supervised and learning after the school day ends. Of course, too many children don't have a program available to them, so we need to spread the word. Timothy is doing a terrific job helping get out the good news about afterschool programs.”

“I'm excited about serving as a Youth Afterschool Ambassador,” Timothy Hall said. “My afterschool program has been a huge part of my life, and I can't wait to share my story, and to advocate for afterschool programs in Idaho and across the nation.”

“Timothy is a terrific Youth Afterschool Ambassador,” said Lissa Hall. “I know from my work with the Afterschool Alliance and the Ambassador program that there's a considerable need for thoughtful, energetic spokespeople for afterschool. He knows afterschool from the inside, and is eager to share his experience, as well as his conviction that we need more afterschool opportunities for kids in Idaho and beyond.”

In the fiscal year 2020 budget, the White House has recommended eliminating funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, the federal government's only dedicated funding stream for afterschool programs.

The three Youth Afterschool Ambassadors in this class come from Idaho, Missouri, and Texas. They are:

- Halie Gier, Eldon Learning Enriched Afterschool Program (LEAP), Eldon, Missouri
- Viridiana Gonzalez, Texas Christian University, former afterschool student in Fort Worth, Texas
- Timothy Hall, Mountain Home Air Force Base Youth Center, Mountain Home, Idaho

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 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 in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement – an important building block for student success.

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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.