



NEWS RELEASE
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Cities and Towns Large and Small to Highlight, Celebrate Diverse Afterschool Activities for *Lights On Afterschool*

No matter where they live, how old they are and what they're interested in, all children and youth can find exciting, educational and fun activities at afterschool programs. Next month, afterschool programs across the country will showcase the activities they offer and the accomplishments of their students at the eleventh annual *Lights On Afterschool*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, more than a million people are expected to participate this year in more than 7,500 *Lights On Afterschool* events across the country.

Across the nation, *Lights On Afterschool* events give youth a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their afterschool programs, and to send the message that millions more children need quality afterschool programs. This year's events will include student performances, runs and walks, open houses, art and essay contests, art displays, tree lightings, carnivals, and much more. Among the events scheduled are:

- A "Breakfast of Champions" on Wednesday, October 20 hosted by the Santa Clara After School Collaborative in **San Jose, California** at which the program will celebrate and honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of afterschool. The breakfast will be held at the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose. For more information, contact Doreen Hassan, 408-351-6426, dhassan@ymcasv.org.
- A joint event sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance and Reading is Fundamental (RIF) in **Washington, DC** on Thursday, October 21 at Kimball Elementary School. Activities will include student performances and a read-aloud session, followed by an awards ceremony to celebrate the school's new RIF lending library. For more information, contact Caroline Phillips, 202-673-1500, cphillips@rif.org.
- A game show night on October 21 sponsored by Creative Learning & Play (CL&P) and Young Leaders with Character (YLC) in **Hialeah, Florida**. The night will begin with middle and high school students and their parents playing a special version of "Family Feud" followed by "Are You Smarter Than Me," based on the game show, "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader," during which local politicians, business leaders and members of the media

will match wits with CL&P students. For more information, contact Marla Alpizar, 305-818-9143, malpizar@hialeahfl.gov.

- A web site launch and the donation of the first of more than 500 computers at Carmel High School's Net Literacy program in **Carmel, Indiana** on Thursday, October 21. The web site, which was created by the student executive committee, is focused on international digital literacy "Best Practices." Digital Literacy has been endorsed by international broadband associations representing more than 200,000 organizations on five continents. For more information, contact Afterschool Ambassador Don Kent, 317-340-4011, donkent@netliteracy.org or visit the program's blog at www.DigitalLiteracy.org.
- A Dollar Days event hosted by the Phelps Youth Pavillion on Thursday, October 21 in **Waterloo, Iowa**. For only a dollar's admission to the hands-on children's museum, visitors will be able milk a life-size cow, virtually drive a tractor into a Grant Wood painting, try digital finger-painting, discover new cultures, and much more. For more information, contact Shannon Farlow, 319-291-4490, Shannon.Farlow@waterloo-ia.org.
- A "Careers in Action Conference" hosted by The Learning Zone: Career Learning Center of the Black Hills on Wednesday, October 20 in **Rapid City, South Dakota**. Students will listen to presentations by local business and industry representatives about possible careers and learn about the skills needed to embark on those careers. The event will also feature presentations by members of the school board, teachers and Rapid City Mayor Alan Hanks. For more information, contact Afterschool Ambassador Carla Allard, 605-394-5120, callard@clc.tie.net.
- The Dallas Afterschool Network's Second Annual Bus Tour Event in **Dallas, Texas** on October 21. Bus tour participants will choose one of three tours with different afterschool providers showcased on each tour: Pleasant Grove (Camp Fire, Thriving Minds, Wilkinson Center); Richardson (Boys and Girls Club of Greater Dallas, Neighborhood Service Council, Richardson ISD's 21st Century PACE); West Dallas (Junior Players at Anita Martinez Recreation Center, Trinity River Mission, West Dallas Community Centers, Inc.). Each tour demonstrates the impact of afterschool programs on students, families and communities and highlights the need for more afterschool spaces in our community. For more information, contact Afterschool Ambassador Tanya McDonald, 214-306-8400, ext. 802, tmcdonald@dasn.org.
- A celebration with the theme "More Than Walls" hosted by School's Out Washington, Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse and Teen Center at Rainier Vista and Boys & Girls Clubs of King County on October 21 in **Seattle, Washington**. Activities will include youth performances, featuring a drill team, dance and spoken word, as well as informational booths and dinner. An Italian Soda Bar will be provided courtesy of Torani Syrups and food will be provided by Tutta Bella Pizzeria and House of Cake, which will donate a special *Lights On Afterschool* cake. For more information, contact Afterschool Ambassador Sherrie Belt, School's Out Washington, 206-323-2396, sbelt@schoolsoutwashington.org.

For information about other *Lights On Afterschool* rallies planned across the country, visit www.AfterschoolAlliance.org.

In support of the event, the Empire State Building will be lit up for the fourth year in a row and this year, for the first time, Mount Rushmore will also be lit up for a special *Lights On Afterschool* celebration.

In advance of *Lights On Afterschool* this year, the Afterschool Alliance will release a new special report from *America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America*, the most in-depth study ever to explore how America's children spend their afternoons. This special report, *America After 3PM: From Big Cities to Small Towns*, will examine the differences in afterschool participation, satisfaction and demand across rural, suburban and urban communities. Both the *America After 3PM* full report and this new special report are sponsored by JCPenney Afterschool, a charitable organization committed to making life-enriching afterschool programs available to more students and families.

The Afterschool Alliance and JCPenney Afterschool will release the latest findings at an event in Des Moines, Iowa on October 12. The report will also reveal city-level data on Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles and New York that will be featured at *Lights On* events in those cities.

Actress Rhea Perlman is a spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool* and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is Founding Chair, a position he has held since 2001.

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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.