



MEDIA ALERT
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**From Coast to Coast and Around the Globe, Parents, Students,
Educators, Community Leaders and Policy Makers to
Rally to Keep the *Lights On Afterschool***

There's a *Lights On Afterschool* Event in Your Community!

On October 22, more than a million people across the United States and at military installations worldwide will see children study robotics and conduct science experiments, learn about nutrition and healthy eating, play soccer and foosball, enjoy face painting, perform music and dance, and much more as part of the 10th annual *Lights On Afterschool*. The only nationwide rally for afterschool programs is organized by the Afterschool Alliance. Across the country, some 7,500 events are scheduled that will feature the diverse activities that children in afterschool programs participate in every day.

These events are being held in schools, shopping malls, parks, museums and other venues. In honor of the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families, the Empire State Building will be lit up in yellow on the evening of October 22 for the third year in a row. In addition, this year for the first time, thanks to Woodcraft Rangers, city officials in Los Angeles will light the historic Lindbergh Beacon atop City Hall that evening. So national landmarks on both coasts will be lit in celebration of afterschool.

As part of this year's *Lights On Afterschool* celebration, Bright House Networks is airing a new documentary on the benefits of afterschool, featuring the personal stories of youth and families across the country.

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.

A list with descriptions of hundreds of events is online at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaEvents2009.pdf>. For a complete list of the more than 7,500 events, 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.