



NEWS RELEASE
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Up In the Sky: It's a Bird, It's a Plane! No. It's the *Lights On Afterschool* Light Bulb!

Giant Lights On Afterschool Light Bulb to Travel U.S. In October

For the third year in a row, a 12-foot inflatable light bulb will be featured at rallies for afterschool across the country as educators, parents, kids, policy makers and other community leaders celebrate the ninth annual *Lights On Afterschool* in October.

The programs scheduled to use the light bulb at their *Lights On* events represent the breadth and depth of afterschool support across the country. They include:

- California Afterschool Network in Sacramento, California;
- Butte County Office of Education in Oroville, California;
- Iowa Afterschool Alliance in Cedar Rapids, Iowa;
- Youth Development Commission in Detroit, Michigan;
- Every Child Matters in Oxford, Mississippi;
- Community Learning Centers in Lincoln, Nebraska;
- The After-School Corporation in New York, New York;
- New Mexico Forum for Youth and Community in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and
- Salina Public Schools in Salina, Oklahoma.

Lights On Afterschool 2008 will mark the end of a year-long celebration of the 10th anniversary of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs.

“The giant *Lights On Afterschool* light bulb represents the giant need for afterschool programs in our country,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, which provides federal funding for afterschool programs, we also need to redouble our efforts to increase that investment so that one day soon, every child will have access to quality afterschool programs that keep them safe, help working families and inspire students to learn.”

In the United States today, more than 14 million children have no place to go after the school day ends.

The 2008 rally will include 7,500 events throughout the nation and at United States military bases around the world. In all, a million people are expected to participate. For the second year in a row, the Empire State Building in New York City will be lit up for *Lights On Afterschool*.

Lights On Afterschool was launched in October 2000. Actress Rhea Perlman is the spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool* and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National 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.

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