



NEWS RELEASE
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A Salute to Afterschool Programs

Military Bases Join National Rally for Afterschool

Parents, children, educators and community members across the United States and around the world are joining *Lights On Afterschool* this year, and military families are a big part of many of the celebrations. Afterschool students at military bases are inviting parents, peers and community members to come to *Lights On Afterschool* events to learn more about the fun, engaging, educational activities their afterschool programs provide.

Lights On Afterschool is organized by the Afterschool Alliance. “We are proud to have military bases across the country and around the world participating in the ninth annual rally for afterschool next week,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “All children need access to the afterschool programs that keep them safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. The participation of families and educators in the military truly makes *Lights On Afterschool* a worldwide event.”

Lights On Afterschool events being held on military bases this year include:

- A *Lights On Afterschool* open house and ice cream social at the Eielson School Age Program Center on the Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska on October 16. Activities will include yoga, a pool tournament, an art project, and science experiments. The Fire Department will give a presentation on fire safety. For information, contact Danielle Petty, Eielson School Age Program, danielle.petty@eielson.af.mil.
- An open house and fashion show at the Beale Air Force Base Youth Center in California on October 16. Students will showcase and model clothing they have made, along with vintage clothing that reflects different periods of fashion throughout the 20th Century. After the fashion show, guests will have the opportunity to walk around the Center and see what activities the programs offer. For more information, contact Morag E. Petersen, Beale AFB Youth Center, morag.petersen@beale.af.mil
- A *Lights On Afterschool* Fair on October 16th at the Heleman Sas youth center at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii at 4:00pm on October 16. More than 70 children will enjoy games, rides and other activities. For more information, contact Julie Ariola, Heleman Sas, Julie.Ariola@us.army.mil
- A *Lights On Afterschool* Pep Rally in the Youth Center Gymnasium on Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana on October 16. Afterschool students will perform a chant and put on a show that focuses on the benefits of afterschool programs for more than 100 attendees, including parents, Base leaders and the school superintendent. For more

information, contact Cora Davis, Barksdale Air Force Base School Age,
cora.davis@barksdale.af.mil

- A 'harvest fest' at the Spangdahlem Youth Programs in Spangdahlem, Germany on October 16. The festival will feature a range of traditional activities. More than 120 people, including the Spangdahlem APO's Flight Chief, are expected. For more information, contact Gira Christian-Booker, Spangdahlem Youth Programs, gira.brooker@spangdahlem.af.mil
- An open house at the Bitburg School Age Program in Germany on October 16. Activities will include games such as blast ball, insect war, flag tag and skip-bo. There will be an exhibit of children's art work and photography as well as fit factor and arts-and-crafts booths. Children in the cooking club will prepare a meal for the event. For more information, contact Shawna Brancato, Bitburg School Age Program, shawna.brancato@spangdahlem.af.mil

This year's *Lights On Afterschool* marks the end of a yearlong celebration of the 10th anniversary of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs. The 2008 rally is expected to include 7,500 events throughout the nation and at United States military bases worldwide. 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*. Actress Rhea Perlman is a spokesperson, 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.