



NEWS RELEASE
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Empire State Building
Will Light Up for *Lights On Afterschool*

Yellow Lights Will Shine on New York City Landmark
October 16 in Support of Afterschool Programs

The yellow lights shining at the top of the Empire State Building on October 16 will be in support of *Lights On Afterschool*, the only national rally for afterschool programs. This is the second year that the Empire State Building will be lit up for the event, which is organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

Each year, *Lights On Afterschool* brings together students, parents, educators, afterschool program directors, and community and business leaders from across the country to show their support for afterschool programs. This year's *Lights On Afterschool* events on October 16 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 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 to urge leaders to support the afterschool programs that keep children safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. More than 14 million children have no place to go after the school day ends.

Local *Lights On Afterschool* events give youth a chance to showcase the skills and talents acquired at their afterschool programs, and to send the message that millions more children need afterschool programs.

“We are thrilled that a national symbol as widely recognized as the Empire State Building is joining *Lights On Afterschool* again this year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “As people gather all across the country to support afterschool programs, the Empire State Building will light up to help send the message that quality afterschool programs are essential for children, families, communities and our country.”

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.

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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