



NEWS RELEASE
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Coming to Your Town: *A Lights On Afterschool Giant “Light Bulb”*

Giant Bulbs Shine Light on Need for More Afterschool Programs

Fresno, California, Houston, Texas, Camdenton, Missouri and Washington, DC are among the cities that will host the 2006 *Lights On Afterschool Light Bulb*, the Afterschool Alliance announced today. October 12 is *Lights On Afterschool* day, when the giant, inflatable bulb will be featured at *Lights On Afterschool* events across the country. The oversized bulb symbolizes the oversized need for more afterschool programs.

“Whether they live in Cincinnati, Ohio or Meridian, Mississippi, kids everywhere need afterschool programs,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The giant light bulbs not only shine a light on the tremendous benefits afterschool programs provide to our children, families and communities, but they also draw attention to the sad truth that there are not nearly enough afterschool programs for the children who need them.”

The giant *Lights On Afterschool Light Bulb* will visit:

- **Concord, California** on October 12, when CARES afterschool programs host “Chalk It Up,” with more than 600 afterschool students walking to Ambrose Recreation and Park to participate in a chalk mural contest.
- **Fresno, California** on October 12, at a community-wide event at which ReadFresno will distribute free books to all afterschool program participants and their siblings.
- The steps of the State Capitol in **Boise, Idaho** on October 6, when Governor Jim Risch signs a proclamation in support of *Lights On Afterschool*. Children’s activities will take place at the Capitol, with 500 students from afterschool programs participating.
- Historic Bosse Field in **Evansville, Indiana** on October 11, with food, refreshments, displays by community agencies, games and entertainment, as well as complimentary t-shirts for the first 2,000 individuals who sign a drug and alcohol free pledge. Youth from area afterschool programs will perform, and the event will end with fireworks. More than 4,000 individuals are expected.

- **Cincinnati, Ohio** at the Cincinnati Museum Center on October 14, at an event featuring an “Afterschool Sampler” with various afterschool programs showcasing interactive activities for kids. The Children’s Theater of Cincinnati, MadCap Puppets and Mad Science are among the programs participating in the event, which also will feature presentations by local elected officials and demonstrations from the double dutch jump roping World Champions. More than 1,000 people are expected.
- **Houston, Texas** on October 12, at a reception at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center. Students will share their experiences and demonstrate skills they developed in their afterschool programs. Mayor Bill White will attend, along with Harris County Judge Robert Eckels and several local community and business leaders.
- A community fair in **Burlington, Vermont**, sponsored by the University of Vermont Extension’s Chittendon County 4-H Program, the Greater Burlington YMCA, Boys & Girls Club of Burlington, King Street Youth Center, Burlington After School Project and Burlington Parks and Recreation Department. The fair will feature interactive, student-run booths showcasing various afterschool programs and activities. The event will conclude with a parade of participants to City Hall where Mayor Bob Kiss, Governor Jim Douglass, Lieutenant Governor Brian Dube, Extension Director Doug Lantagne, and local JCPenny store manager Dorothy Micklas are expected to speak.

Balloon events will also take place in **Los Angeles, California; St. Paul, Minnesota; Meridian, Mississippi; Nashville, Tennessee; and Washington, DC.**

Lights On Afterschool was launched in October 2000 with 1,200 events across the country. Last year, a million people rallied at 7,500 events to show their support for afterschool programs.

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 by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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