



NEWS RELEASE
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Military Families Nationwide and Overseas Help Organize *Lights On Afterschool*

Every branch of the armed services will be represented at the fifth annual *Lights On Afterschool*, held October 14 this year. An unprecedented 59 military installations across the United States and in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea and Guam will host diverse events in support of afterschool programs.

“Military families face many challenges, including providing safe, nurturing environments for their children at the end of the school day,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson. “We are delighted that so many military families nationwide and around the world will join us this October to send the message that we need more afterschool programs to keep kids safe, help working families and inspire children to learn.”

Below is a sampling of *Lights On Afterschool* events to be hosted by military programs:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Navy Hawaii (**Ewa Beach, Hawaii**) will host an open house for Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine, and Department of Defense employees and their families, featuring a book fair, arts and crafts activities, a parent-child scooter race and demonstrations of science experiments.
- Boys & Girls Club of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (**North Berwick, Maine**) will host an open house for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard community featuring a “Family Fun Night” with classes in Russian painting techniques, Russian folk music and dancing, Russian language and the art of Russian dolls. Students will also learn traditional Russian games.
- The Goodfellow Air Force Base Youth Center (**Goodfellow, Texas**) will host “Hog Wild at the Youth Center,” a *Lights On Afterschool* Harley Davidson motorcycle exhibit. Kids will learn about motorcycles and motorcycle safety.
- Children at the Kadena Air Force Base (**Okinawa, Japan**) will learn about the dangers of drug abuse and drinking and driving from the ACE (Airmen Committed to Excellence) and D.A.R.E programs. Base Security Forces will participate in “Cops vs. Kids” games of dodge ball and four square with children.

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- Parents and children will gather at the Osan Air Base (**Republic of Korea**) to watch Tae Kwon Do and Irish Dance demonstrations. Refreshments made by a student cooking club will be served.
- Parent-child teams at the RAF Alconbury United States Air Force Base (**Alconbury, United Kingdom**) will compete for prizes by completing a variety of afterschool activities, including science projects, cooking projects and sports activities.

The Afterschool Alliance launched *Lights On Afterschool* in October 2000. That year more than 1,200 events were held across the country. In 2003, more than half a million people rallied at more than 5,000 events in all 50 states as well as Guam, Japan and South Korea to show their support for afterschool programs. Organizers expect this year's event to be even larger. A detailed list of 2004 *Lights On Afterschool* events is available online at: www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa_2004/find.cfm.

The 2004 National Presenting Sponsor of *Lights On Afterschool* is the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a National Sponsor of the event. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Open Society Institute are providing additional support.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by the year 2010. Information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, established in 1926 in Flint, Michigan, by an automotive pioneer, is a private philanthropy committed to supporting projects that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society. More information is available at www.mott.org.

JCPenney Afterschool is committed to helping provide children with high-quality, affordable after-school programs to help them reach the "power of their potential." The JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. JCPenney Afterschool has contributed more than \$34 million during the past five years to five of America's leading after-school advocates. JCPenney Afterschool's support helps provide safe, fun and educational after-school programs and raise awareness of the need for more such programs across the country.

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