



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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### **Afterschool Programs on Military Bases Join National *Lights On Afterschool* Rally**

This month, military installations across the country and around the world will host rallies, talent shows and other celebrations as part of the seventh annual *Lights On Afterschool*, America's only national rally for afterschool. On October 12, afterschool programs will open their doors to tell their communities about the academic and enrichment activities they offer children. *Lights On Afterschool* is organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

"Afterschool programs play a tremendous role in the lives of our military families, providing children with academic and enrichment activities that are both educational and fun," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "Perhaps most importantly, afterschool programs support children who have one or both parents deployed. We are delighted that so many afterschool programs on military bases are joining *Lights On Afterschool* this year."

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

**Patrick Air Force Base Youth Programs in Satellite Beach, Florida** will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* by hosting a *Light the Way* walk through the military housing community on October 12. Children will walk through the community holding light bulbs that represent all the afterschool clubs offered by the Patrick AFB Youth Program. Base VIP's have been invited to speak and walk along with the children. For more information, contact Lynne Phillips, Program Director at 321/494-4748.

**Sembach School Age Program located on Raimstein Air Force Base in Germany**, will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 12 with a family skate evening for children and parents. Special guests include a principal who will discuss the importance of afterschool programs, and a Deputy Commander who will officially proclaim *Lights On Afterschool* Day on the air force base. For more information, contact Grace Connelly, School Age Coordinator at [grace.connelly@sembach.af.mil](mailto:grace.connelly@sembach.af.mil).

**Kadena Teen Center Millennium in Kadena, Japan**, will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 12 with an open house for parents, school officials, various base representatives and the 18 Services Command. Keystone members will provide tours of the Center, and teens will demonstrate regular activities such as "Crafty Teens" to give the community a chance to see

what teens do at the Center. For more information, contact Celine Perez at [Celine.Perez@kadena.af.mil](mailto:Celine.Perez@kadena.af.mil).

**Hanscom Air Force Base Youth Programs in Hanscom, Massachusetts** will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 12 by hosting an open house to showcase afterschool programs. Activities will include relay races, arts and crafts, cooking, a “Power Points” prize fair and a “Guitar Hero” tournament. For more information, contact Youth Programs Director Craver Scott at 781/377-3308.

**The Boys and Girls Club of Gulfport Navy Youth Center in Gulfport, Mississippi** will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 12 with an open house and carnival for military families living on base. The Club will showcase projects completed by students at the afterschool program. For more information, contact School Age Coordinator Nicole Johnson at (228) 871-2251.

**Goodfellow Air Force Base School Age Programs in Goodfellow, Texas** will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 12 with a “Fall Festival.” The older children will organize game booths and activities for their parents and the younger children. Children will perform songs for parents and staff. For more information, contact Youth Director Shandy Scott at [shandy.scott@goodfellow.af.mil](mailto:shandy.scott@goodfellow.af.mil).

*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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*

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