



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Governor Schwarzenegger Leads California In Turning the “Lights On” for Afterschool Today**

### ***Governor Speaks at Bakersfield Rally***

All across California, afterschool programs are holding events today as part of the seventh annual *Lights On Afterschool*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. The Bakersfield, California rally at Ollivier Middle School will feature California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, one of the nation’s leading champions for afterschool and the National Chair of *Lights On Afterschool* since 2001. In July, Governor Schwarzenegger signed the state budget putting Proposition 49 in motion and providing \$550 million in state funds for afterschool programs. Schwarzenegger championed the measure, even before he became Governor. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* is held each October to shine a spotlight on the need for more afterschool programs.

“After years of playing a hero in the movies, Governor Schwarzenegger is now a hero to the millions of children and families who need afterschool programs,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Afterschool programs play a key role in helping children and communities grow and thrive. This year, thousands of communities nationwide – and hundreds in California – are participating in *Lights On Afterschool* to send the message that afterschool programs keep children safe, help working families, and inspire students to learn. California is leading the way, now we want to see every state make afterschool programs available to all children who need them.”

“Afterschool programs here in California are more than ready to use the new funds that Proposition 49 will provide. We are pleased that SB 638, jointly authored by Senator Roy Ashburn and signed by the Governor in September, streamlines the application process for Prop 49, increases rates and caps for programs and ensures strong accountability for afterschool programs,” said Sandra L. McBrayer, Chairperson of the California Advisory Committee on Before and After-School Programs and CEO of The Children’s Initiative. “Prop 49 increases afterschool spending from \$120 million to \$550 million, making a tremendous difference for our children, our families and our communities. We commend the Governor and state legislators for getting this done, and the voters for passing Proposition 49 in 2002.” State Senator Roy Ashburn, who is a driving force for California afterschool, also spoke at the Bakersfield event. *Lights On Afterschool* kicked off on Sunday with an event organized by Beyond the Bell at Birmingham High School in Los Angeles, with afterschool programs from around the city hosting activities for more than 4,000 students. The culminating ceremony featured Afterschool Alliance Spokesperson Kevin Sorbo, star of TV shows *Hercules* and *Andromeda*, along with

dignitaries and special guests. Throughout October, parents, children, teachers, community leaders and others in big cities and small towns are holding diverse events that showcase the benefits of afterschool programs. Among them:

**Barstow:** Theresa Meugniot, Clara McKinney Youth Complex, 760-577-6287, [theresameugniot@usmc.mil](mailto:theresameugniot@usmc.mil)

On the afternoon of October 12<sup>th</sup> the Clara McKinney Youth Complex will hold an Open House and dinner for the entire community. Youth at the program will prepare the meal, decorate *Lights On Afterschool* light bulbs and hang them around the facilities. The Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps Logistics Base may attend. More than 125 people are expected to participate.

**Concord, California:** Afterschool Ambassador Stephanie Roberts, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Mt. Diablo CARES, 925-691-0351, [robertss@mdusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:robertss@mdusd.k12.ca.us).

Several Mt. Diablo CARES locations will hold *Lights On Afterschool* events on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:30 PM. CARES programs will open their doors to families and community members to experience a “Day in the Life of a Child in the CARES Program.” In Concord, Local CARES Middle and Elementary School programs will create a gallery of program photographs. Community members can also attend a speaking program focusing on how afterschool is making a difference in kids’ lives and participate in interactive stations including nutrition and fitness and Homework Zone. Cambridge, Fair Oaks, Holbrook, Meadow Homes and Ygnacio Valley communities will also host events. Also on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the four CARES Schools in Bay Point will host “Chalk it Up,” where more than 600 afterschool students will walk to Ambrose Recreation and Park to participate in a chalk mural contest; state Senator Tom Torlakson, one of the co-sponsors of SB 638, will be among the speakers. Each event is open to the public and community leaders and local dignitaries may attend.

**Fresno:** Afterschool Ambassador Roy Mendiola, Fresno Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL), 559-485-5513, [roy.mendiola@fresnocoral.org](mailto:roy.mendiola@fresnocoral.org)

Fresno CORAL and local community partners will host three *Lights On Afterschool* events in Fresno and Madera from 2:30 – 5:30 PM. Events will be held at schools in the Fresno Unified School District on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and in the Madera Unified School District on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Community leaders will open each event by speaking about the importance of afterschool programs. The Afterschool Alliance PSA *Things Can Get Pretty Ugly When You’re Bored*, and a giant inflatable *Lights On* light bulb will be featured. Free books donated through a partnership with ReadFresno will be distributed to all program participants and their siblings. The events are open to the entire community.

**Los Angeles:** Afterschool Ambassador Anna Araujo, Boys & Girls Clubs of East Los Angeles, 323-263-4955, [elabgc@yahoo.com](mailto:elabgc@yahoo.com)

On October 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, the Boys & Girls Clubs of East Los Angeles will work with partnering organizations to host a combined *Lights On Afterschool* and *Red Ribbon Week* rally. Ten thousand students from 45 different schools and afterschool programs will come together in a march from the Boys & Girls Club facilities to Belvedere Park where Congresswoman Hilda Solis and State Senator Gloria Romero are expected to address the crowd. The Superintendent of Schools, Sheriff Lee Baca, and other community leaders may attend.

Organizers will also staff booths showcasing various local afterschool and drug prevention programs.

**Modesto:** John Ervin, Modesto City Schools 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, 209-576-4178, ervin.j@monet.k12.ca.us

Modesto City Schools 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* with Open Houses at each of their 60 sites on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The afterschool programs will also participate in a street fair on October 13<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Haven Women's Center's Domestic Violence Awareness Month events.

**Oxnard:** Zelihea Edsman, Naval Base Ventura County Youth Activities, 805-484-5414, zelihea.edsman@navy.mil

Naval Base Ventura County Youth Activities will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 12<sup>th</sup> with an ice cream social for children, families and the military community.

**Rosemead:** Afterschool Ambassador Cathie Mostovoy, Woodcraft Rangers, 213-749-3031 ext.231, cmostovoy@woodcrafrangers.org

On October 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:30 PM, the City of Rosemead will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* by bringing together several local afterschool programs, including Woodcraft Rangers, Kiwanis Key Clubs, Garvey and Rosemead School Districts, Parks and Recreation, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts and A World of Flight. Program participants and their families will assemble together at two locations, Garvey Intermediate and Muscatel Middle School, where they will have the chance to participate in a variety of activities offered by the organizations. Woodcraft Rangers will offer dance and guitar clinics, obstacle courses, fine arts classes, batting cages and literacy activities for families, and will decorate the stage with light bulbs and student-created collages. The event will conclude with stage performances and presentations from the School District Superintendent's office and California State Senator Gloria Romero.

**Sacramento:** Afterschool Ambassador Joe Hudson, Sacramento City Unified School District, 916-643-9235, hudsonj.co\_po.scusd@sac-city.k12.ca.us

Sacramento City Unified School District will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* with an event at Burbank High School. High school students enrolled in afterschool programs will emcee the event which will feature guest performances by middle and elementary school groups. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver may attend, along with Mayor Heather Fargo and members of the School Board, City Council, and County Board of Supervisors. A press conference will take place immediately preceding the event. More than 800 people are expected to participate.

**San Diego:** Afterschool Ambassador Steve Amick, San Diego County Office of Education, 619-718-6778, samick@sdcoe.net

The San Diego County Office of Education is celebrating *Lights On Afterschool* with an event at a local middle school on the evening of October 12<sup>th</sup>. Elementary school students from the area will attend, bringing the total number of participants to more than 400 people. Various student groups will perform. Local community leaders and elected officials may attend.

**San Francisco:** Allen Smith, San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and their Families, 415-437-6174, [asmith@dcyf.org](mailto:asmith@dcyf.org)

The San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and their Families will host three events to commemorate *Lights On Afterschool* this year. The Afterschool Leadership and Policy Breakfast will take place from 9:00 – 11:00 AM on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Gavin Newsome, along with the Superintendent of Schools and several City Council members, may attend to discuss current afterschool issues. From 3:00 – 6:00 PM, smaller *Lights On Afterschool* celebrations will take place at individual sites around the city. These are open to students, families, community members and guests of the Leadership and Policy Breakfast. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Children, Youth and their Families will sponsor a large family festival at Yerba Buena Gardens, which is expected to draw approximately 10,000 families.

**San Francisco:** Sean Yeung, Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center, 415-759-3690, [syeung@sdbc.org](mailto:syeung@sdbc.org)

On October 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 6:00 PM, the Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center will host an Open House showcasing the program's activities. Local school, city, and county officials may attend. More than 300 people are expected to participate.

**San Jose:** Afterschool Ambassador John Poch, After-School All-Stars – Greater San Jose, 408-280-5302 ext.115, [jpoch@afterschoolallstars.org](mailto:jpoch@afterschoolallstars.org)

The Greater San Jose After-School All-Stars program will be hosting a Breakfast of Champions at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 9:30 AM. The program is part of the Santa Clara County After School Collaborative (SCCASC), which includes every afterschool provider in the county. At the event, many "Afterschool Champions" will be recognized. The Rotunda will be decorated with light bulb art from program participants and each table will be decorated by different afterschool agencies around a specific program theme. Two hundred people will attend the breakfast. Later that afternoon all of the SCCASC member programs will open for site visits. Local elected officials may attend.

"The huge number of *Lights On Afterschool* events this year in California and across the country is evidence of the growing commitment to afterschool programs," Grant added. "We are thrilled with the high level of participation, and delighted that California is leading the way in showing communities everywhere that 'afterschool for all' can be a reality."

This year's *Lights On Afterschool* will be celebrated at 7,500 events in the United States and at military bases around the world. Information about other 2006 *Lights On Afterschool* events is available online at [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights\\_on/find.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/find.cfm).

*Lights On Afterschool* was launched in October 2000 with 1,200 events across the country.

*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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