



NEWS RELEASE
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4-H National Youth Science Day Activities to be Part of *Lights On Afterschool*, As Afterschool Programs from Coast to Coast Showcase the Fun, Educational STEM Activities They Offer Students

Learning what makes drones function. Exploring interactive exhibits on the human body. Studying how Newton's Laws of Motion apply to bowling. Building circuits and soldering presentation boards to showcase student accomplishments. These are examples of the fun, engaging, hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities taking place at [Lights On Afterschool](#) events across the country this month.

Organized by the [Afterschool Alliance](#), *Lights On Afterschool* is the only national rally for afterschool programs. More than a million people are expected to celebrate this year at 8,000 events across the country and at U.S. military bases worldwide. Events are being held at science museums, schools, community centers, parks and recreation centers, state capitols, malls and other venues.

At more than 200 *Lights On Afterschool* events, afterschool students will explore the science behind drones, through 4-H's National Science Day Drone Discovery challenge.

Lights On Afterschool will officially kick off tomorrow, October 6, when the Golden State Warriors, Sacramento Kings, Learn Fresh and the Afterschool Alliance hold a Math Hoops tournament at the SAP Center in San Jose. Youth from area afterschool programs will put their math skills to the test at the tournament and then watch the preseason Warriors vs. Kings game. Winners of the Math Hoops tournament will be recognized during the game.

"Afterschool programs offer students opportunities for team-based, hands-on learning and a chance to explore science, technology, engineering and math," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "We're excited to kick off *Lights On Afterschool* by showcasing some of the inventive ways afterschool programs develop STEM skills in children and youth. Quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families, and they also expand students' interests, skills and horizons so as to position them to succeed in school and in life."

In partnership with Bright House Networks, afterschool programs and science centers in **Florida** will team up to provide hands-on STEM activities for youth at *Lights On Afterschool* events. They include:

- The Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida will collaborate with the Orlando Science Center on "Destination STEM" workshops at eight sites in October. About 200 students will

participate in the 90-minute workshops that expose them to STEM disciplines and career paths.

- Orlando County Public Schools is collaborating with the Orlando Science Center on a “*Lights On for Superhero Fun*” science festival on October 22. Activities will include engineering roller coasters; KABOOM!, physical science experiments; and engineering a circuit that will power and light a motor.
- On October 20, Hillsborough County Public School’s Out of School Time Program is partnering with the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa on a “Building a Better Me Through STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math)” event.
- Students from the Plant City Boys & Girls Club will visit the Tampa Museum of Science & Industry to work on STEM projects for *Lights On Afterschool* on October 10. Students will explore an interactive exhibit about the human body; learn about bodily functions; measure the power of their lungs; test their senses; and discover how foods fuel the body.

In other parts of the country:

Ridgecrest, California:

The High Desert Leapin’ Lizards’ ninth *Lights On Afterschool* event will serve as the culmination of the program’s STEAM unit on the science of bowling. Students studied physics concepts by focusing on how Newton’s Laws of Motion apply to bowling and, during the event, students will engineer their own bowling lanes and play two games.

Hagerstown, Maryland:

The Noland Village Unit of the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County is building on last year’s *Lights On Afterschool* event, at which they built a ramp. This year, students will build cars to race on the ramp

Lansing, Michigan:

Michigan State University and the Boys & Girls Club of Lansing will hold a Maker Carnival to promote STEAM learning and celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*. Students will develop simple circuits, use electric art, design personalized light-up bracelets, and make light-up art canvases. There will be soldering and breadboard stations for students to practice advanced circuitry.

Louisiana, Missouri: Twin Pike Family YMCA

The Twin Pike Family YMCA will host a “Just Keep Swimming” educational family night to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*. Students and families will cycle through stations related to ocean life, keying off the movie “Finding Dory.” Learning stations will teach guests about the biology of sea creatures; offer an experiment showing how whales use blubber fat to help them tolerate cold water; and show them how to “speak whale.”

The New York skyline will again shine for afterschool on October 20 when, for the tenth consecutive year, the iconic Empire State Building is lit up in yellow for afterschool.

In a unanimous vote, the United States Senate passed a resolution that recognizes October 20 as a day to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*.

The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide, up from 6.5 million in 2004. But the unmet demand for afterschool programs has increased as well. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available. Unmet demand is especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. One in five students in the United States today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

Among the more than 100 *Lights On Afterschool* partners this year are the National Science Teachers Association, STEM Education Coalition, Association of Science Technology Centers and Mozilla Foundation. For a complete list of national *Lights On Afterschool* partners, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaNatPartners.cfm>.

To find an event in your area, please visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaFindEvent.cfm>.

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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.