



NEWS RELEASE

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Photography, Music, Dance, Visual Arts Will Be Featured at *Lights On Afterschool* Events Across Nation this Month

Many of the 8,000 [Lights On Afterschool](#) events across the country this month will highlight the ways afterschool programs inspire children and youth through engagement with the arts. Organized by the [Afterschool Alliance](#), *Lights On Afterschool* is the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. More than a million people are expected to participate this year, the 18th time it has been held. Events will be held at schools, community centers, art and science museums, parks and recreation centers, state capitols, malls and other venues to demonstrate the many ways afterschool programs help students succeed in school and in life.

The New York skyline will again shine for afterschool on October 26th when, for the 11th consecutive year, the iconic Empire State Building is lit up in yellow and blue for *Lights On Afterschool*. Among the arts-focused events that will be part of this year's national rally:

Tucson, Arizona: The KIDCO afterschool program will host a talent show on October 26th at the Deemster Outdoor Performance Center. The show will feature performances from all 16 KIDCO afterschool sites, and each program will perform a dance from a different decade. In addition, some of the sites will create carnival games for the guests to play before the performances. Each participant will be given a glow-in-the-dark wristband to light up when they kick off the dances.

Miami, Florida: On October 25th, the Lynx Academy Afterschool program at Eneida M. Hartner Elementary school will host a *Lights On Afterschool* showcase honoring Hispanic Heritage Month with special performances to honor Puerto Rico and Mexico. The event will include dance performances and poetry readings.

Waverly, Kansas: The Valley Heights Colts Round-Up afterschool program will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 26th at Waverly Elementary School. Photographers from local media outlets will take photos of afterschool students and families as they enter in front of a hand-painted *Lights On Afterschool* banner, as well as throughout the event. The photos will be used to create a collage that will be sent out as a souvenir after the event and displayed in the building. Guests will enjoy a juggling performance. To conclude the event, State Senator Elaine Bowers will address participants and two local mayors will read proclamations.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Afterschool Ambassador Sam Trevathan's Kids' Orchestra will host its *Lights On Afterschool* celebration at Claiborne Elementary on October 26th. There will be a tour, student testimonials about the impact of afterschool in their lives and student performances.

Mayor Sharon Weston Broom will read a *Lights On* Proclamation. During the tour, participants will visit classrooms, with each highlighting afterschool offerings from the Big Buddy Program, BREC, the Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission and others. Student demonstrations will include: how to hold your instrument; a sound session; a glimpse into wind or string ensemble rehearsal; foundation songs and movement with Halloween themes; and more. The event will conclude with jambalaya and music.

Kalamazoo, Michigan: For *Lights On Afterschool*, the Communities In Schools afterschool program, Kids in Tune at Woods Lake Elementary, will host its annual “Spooktacular” concert on October 26th. The concert will be held in partnership with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and will showcase a variety of musical performances from the 70 students enrolled in the program.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: On October 26th, EducationWorks @ Cleveland Mastery will host an open house to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*. There will be rooms dedicated to arts and crafts, dance, games, refreshments and a slideshow featuring photos from the past year. EducationWorks staff will film this year’s *Lights On* celebration for the organization’s video blog.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: The Assemble afterschool program will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on October 28th with a special “Saturday Crafternoon” event for the community to learn new science, technology, engineering, art and math skills through fun experiments. Special guest Linda McNair will teach students and parents about metalsmithing and will help them design rings, bracelets and key chains. Children and families will have the opportunity to sign up for Assemble’s afterschool offerings, and meet teachers and other community members.

“Each day, quality afterschool programs across the country offer students learning experiences centered on the arts,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “In addition to sharing the many ways afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and give working parents peace of mind that their children are safe and supervised after the school day ends, many *Lights On Afterschool* activities this year will showcase the ways afterschool programs teach students about the arts, connect them to artists and musicians, and use art instruction to build creativity and encourage kids to get out of their comfort zones and try something new.”

The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that for every child in an afterschool program, two more are waiting to get in. Unmet demand is especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. One in five students in the United States is unsupervised after the school day ends.

Governments, parents, philanthropies, businesses and others support afterschool programs, but investments are frequently under threat; this year, the President proposed a budget that would have eliminated federal funding for afterschool and summer learning programs. While Congress has rejected the call to eliminate afterschool funding, there is still a threat of cuts that could affect 100,000 students.

Among the more than 100 *Lights On Afterschool* partners this year are 4-H Afterschool, After-School All-Stars, the Association of Science Technology Centers, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Camp Fire, the Food Research & Action Center, the National Recreation & Park

Association, Voices for Healthy Kids, and the Y. 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.