



MEDIA ALERT
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Americans Rally to Keep the Lights on Afterschool From Alabama to Alaska This Week

There's a *Lights On Afterschool* Event in Your Community

On October 18, at schools and community centers, on soccer fields, and at fair grounds, malls and other venues, a million people will rally for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

At more than 7,500 events around the country – and at military bases in Germany, South Korea and elsewhere – students, parents, educators, business and community leaders, lawmakers and others will come together to celebrate the eighth annual *Lights On Afterschool*. The nationwide rally for afterschool is organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

For the first time ever this year, the Empire State Building will light up in yellow for *Lights On Afterschool* on October 18th.

The Chair of *Lights On Afterschool* is California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Actress Rhea Perlman is a national spokesperson for the event, and comedian Wayne Brady is making an appearance at a Cincinnati rally.

Lights On Afterschool kicked off earlier this month with rallies in Los Angeles, California, Evansville, Indiana, and Columbia, South Carolina.

48 Governors and hundreds of mayors have declared October 18th *Lights On Afterschool Day*. This year's *Lights On Afterschool* events on October 18 will also kick-off a year-long celebration of the 10th anniversary of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs.

For descriptions of several hundred Lights On Afterschool events, please visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/events.cfm. A full list of the 7,500 events is available at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/find.cfm.

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.

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