



MEDIA ALERT
October 22, 2014

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Communities in Every Corner of United States Will Rally for Afterschool Programs on Thursday as Part of the 15th Annual *Lights On Afterschool*

New Data Shows Unmet Demand for Afterschool at Nearly 20 Million Children

On Thursday, students from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale will visit the Arizona Science Center for a family engineering science night and Stomp Rocket Build Challenge. In Chicago, BUILD afterschool students will participate in a panel discussion to consider how best to stop the recent rash of violence and prevent youth from becoming victims or perpetrators. In Duluth, afterschool programs are teaming up for a carnival and showcase at which youth will lead adults in traditional afterschool activities. Youth from the 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool program sites in Lincoln, Nebraska will lead a rally, to be followed by a talent show judged by local VIPs and a reading of the mayor's proclamation in support of *Lights On Afterschool*.

These are just a sample of the more than 8,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events that will take place in nearly every community in the country, and at U.S. military bases worldwide, this week. The events, which run the gamut from fun runs and dance showcases to science experiments to computer animation demonstrations to sports contests to art shows, are part of the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* is in its 15th year. More than a million people are expected to participate this week.

In advance of *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance released the most comprehensive study ever to examine how America's children spend their afternoons. "[America After 3PM](#)," a household survey of more than 30,000 families, found that participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide, but the unmet demand for afterschool has increased as well, to 19.4 million. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available. One in five students in the United States today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

For the eighth year in a row, the Empire State Building will be bathed in yellow light on Thursday evening in support of *Lights on Afterschool*. Mozilla and the Afterschool Alliance teamed up to create the *Lights On Afterschool Webmaker Challenge* – a simple, fun activity to help afterschool programs develop students' digital literacy skills. For the *Lights On Afterschool Webmaker Challenge*, students designed their own digital poster in support of *Lights On Afterschool* and their afterschool program, using Mozilla's free Webmaker platform.

Also, Bright House Networks is sponsoring a *Lights On Afterschool Facebook Photo Contest* through which afterschool programs can win up to \$2,000.

The Afterschool Alliance organizes *Lights On Afterschool* to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students through hands-on learning and opportunities many do not get during the regular school day – such as science, community service, robotics, Tae Kwon Do and poetry. The events give youth a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their afterschool programs, and to send the message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs.

For a complete list of national *Lights On Afterschool* partners, please visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaNatPartners.cfm>.

Several hundred *Lights On Afterschool* event descriptions are [here](#) . To find an event in your community, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaFindEvent.cfm>.

The new America After 3PM report is funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Noyce Foundation, with additional support from the Heinz Endowments, The Robert Bowne Foundation and the Samueli Foundation.

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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.