



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **4-H Clubs, Ys, After School All-Stars to Join Museums, Community Groups, Businesses and Other Partners for 15<sup>th</sup> Annual *Lights On Afterschool* Rally**

More than 200 diverse organizations – from afterschool providers like YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs to arts associations to law enforcement to sports groups to civic organizations – are coming together next month to rally support for afterschool programs. The 15<sup>th</sup> annual *Lights On Afterschool* is organized by the Afterschool Alliance. It will bring people together at thousands of community centers, science centers, malls, parks and recreation centers, state capitols and other venues to learn more about the many ways afterschool programs support students' success academically and in life.

Among the organizations joining *Lights On Afterschool* this year are: Mozilla; Healthy Kids Out of School; the Association of Science-Technology Centers, Inc.; the Maker Education Initiative; Nickelodeon; Bright House Networks; and many others.

Many of this year's partners are taking an active role in *Lights On Afterschool* events, including:

- 4-H is providing resources for afterschool programs to take part in National Youth Science Day Experiment activities for *Lights On Afterschool*.
- Nickelodeon is helping get the word out that afterschool programs provide critical opportunities to get active.
- Bright House Networks is sponsoring a *Lights On Afterschool* Facebook Photo Contest through which afterschool programs can win up to \$2,000.
- The Empire State Building will be lit in yellow on October 23 to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*.

“We’re proud that so many of our *Lights On Afterschool* partners have continued to support and participate in this important event, year-after-year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “They reflect the diversity of fun and educational activities that are available in afterschool programs, and the breadth of support for those programs. We’re honored and inspired by our partners’ commitment to children and to the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.”

A large and growing body of evidence demonstrates improvements in attendance, behavior, academic achievement and more among children who participate in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement – an important building block for student success.

In advance of *Lights On Afterschool* 2014, the Afterschool Alliance will release new data from the nation's most comprehensive longitudinal survey of how America's children are spending their afternoons. "America After 3PM," a survey of more than 30,000 families, will provide new information on how participation and demand for afterschool have changed over the last decade and how they vary by state, income level, ethnicity, and more. For the first time, "America After 3PM" will include detailed data on STEM (science, technology, education and mathematics) and physical activity in afterschool. The forthcoming "America After 3 PM" 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 Samuelli Foundation.

For a complete list of national *Lights On Afterschool* partners, please 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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*