



News Release

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Contact: [Magen Eissenstat](mailto:Magen.Eissenstat@afterschoolalliance.org), 202/609-9889

From New York's Niagara Falls to Hawaii's Aloha Tower, Landmarks Will Be Lit Up for *Lights On Afterschool* This Week

Bridges and buildings, capitols and courthouses, and other landmarks are being lit up in blue and yellow this week for the 25th annual [Lights On Afterschool](#). The national rally, organized by the [Afterschool Alliance](#), will include approximately 8,000 events across the country at which a million people will demonstrate their support for the afterschool programs that 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. Superstar Usher is honorary chair of *Lights On Afterschool* this year.

Lights On Afterschool events are being held at schools, 4-Hs, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, cities, parks, museums, community centers, and other places throughout the month to celebrate the critical support that programs provide children, youth and families and to highlight the need for more investment in these essential programs. Landmarks will shine for afterschool on or around this Thursday, October 24, the official *Lights On Afterschool* day. Among them:

- In **Alabama**, the Retirement Systems Building in Montgomery.
- In **Connecticut**, the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford and the Bee Bridge in New Britain.
- In **Delaware**, the State Capitol Cupola.
- In **Hawaii**, the Aloha Tower in Honolulu.
- In **Louisiana**, the courthouse in Clinton and Caesars Superdome in New Orleans.
- In **Maryland**, Baltimore City Hall.
- In **Massachusetts**, Clear Channel Outdoor is lighting up billboards at Boston's South Station.
- In **New Jersey**, the Trenton Makes Bridge.
- In **New York**, Niagara Falls in Buffalo, two Clear Channel digital spectacular screens in New York City's Times Square, and the Governor Cuomo Bridge in Rockland and Westchester Counties.
- In **North Dakota**, the Gateway to Science building in Bismarck.
- In **Ohio**, the Center of Science and Industry and the Union Station Arch, both in Columbus.
- In **Pennsylvania**, the State Capitol in Harrisburg.
- In **Tennessee**, the Hensley Street Bridge in Knoxville and other bridges around the state.
- In **Texas**, Boggus Stadium in Harlingen (lit up October 10 for *Lights On Afterschool*).

Clear Channel Outdoor is supporting *Lights On Afterschool* by donating some of its most prominent space to display afterschool messages on digital billboards, transit shelters, and poster spaces in 25 markets around the country throughout October.

This year, *Lights On Afterschool* comes as the federal pandemic relief that has helped afterschool programs meet rising costs and address growing needs winds down. The unmet need for programs is enormous. Today in the United States, for every child in an afterschool program, four more are waiting to get in. Nearly 25 million children not in an afterschool program would be enrolled, if a program were available to them, according to a 2022 survey of approximately 1,500 parents commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance and conducted by Edge Research. In recent years, Congress has failed to significantly increase funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs.

A large and powerful body of evidence demonstrates improvements in grades, school attendance, behavior, and more among children who participate in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that students in afterschool programs are more engaged in school and excited about learning, and they develop critical work and life skills such as problem solving, teamwork, and communications.

Capital One and Clear Channel Outdoor are generous sponsors of *Lights On Afterschool* this year.

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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.