



News Release
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Organizations Focused on Science and Tech Learning, Sports and Fitness, Public Safety, Food and Nutrition, Youth Development and More Are Rallying for *Lights On Afterschool* This Month

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than 200 diverse national, state, and local organizations representing a range of interests are coming together this month to support and participate in the 22nd annual *Lights On Afterschool*. The country's only national rally for afterschool programs is organized by the Afterschool Alliance and set for Thursday, October 28th.

In addition to major afterschool program providers – including 4-H Afterschool, After-School All-Stars, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Camp Fire, Girls Inc., Think Together, the YMCA of the USA and others – the organizations supporting this year's rally include:

- American Indian Education Association;
- Association of Children's Museums;
- Association for Science-Technology Centers;
- Food Research & Action Center;
- National League of Cities;
- The National Recreation & Park Association;
- The National Urban League;
- The National Association of Police Athletics/Activities Leagues (PAL);
- Young Adult Library Services Association; and
- Unidos US.

Thousands of *Lights On Afterschool* events being planned across the country, some virtual and some in-person. Participants will see student demonstrations and performances and learn about their afterschool activities and the many ways afterschool programs support students' success in school and in life.

For the 15th consecutive year, the New York skyline will shine for afterschool on October 28 when the iconic Empire State Building is lit in yellow to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*.

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.

The most recent America After 3PM household survey of more than 31,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, finds that for every child in an afterschool program in the United States, three

more are waiting to get in. The families of 24.6 million children — more than ever before — are unable to access a program. Many report cost as a barrier. There are significant inequities, with Black and Latinx children unable to access the afterschool programs their parents want for them.

BellXcel, 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.