



NEWS RELEASE
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From Alabama to Alaska, Landmarks Are Being Lit for *Lights On Afterschool* This Month

Empire State Building to Be Bathed in Yellow and Blue for Afterschool Next Thursday

This month, as the nation rallies for [Lights On Afterschool](#), landmarks across the country are being lit in yellow and blue to show support for afterschool programs, which 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. *Lights On Afterschool 2022* will include thousands of events around the country that showcase the skills students hone and talents they develop at their afterschool programs. Most are on or around Thursday, October 20th.

Organized by the [Afterschool Alliance](#), *Lights On Afterschool* is America's only national rally for afterschool programs. This is the 23rd consecutive year the event is being held. Among the landmarks being lit for *Lights On Afterschool* this year:

- ✚ In New York City, the Empire State Building will light up in blue and yellow beginning at sunset next Thursday, October 20.
- ✚ In Alabama, the Retirement Systems of Alabama Building in Birmingham (the tallest building in the city).
- ✚ In Alaska, Denali State Bank in Fairbanks.
- ✚ In Colorado, Lake County Courthouse in Leadville.
- ✚ In the District of Columbia, the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge.
- ✚ In Florida, the Tampa Bay Rays will light up Tropicana Field.
- ✚ In Louisiana, the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans.
- ✚ In Massachusetts, the South Street Station in Boston, the city's busiest transit hub.
- ✚ In Michigan, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation in Flint.
- ✚ In North Carolina, the Ocracoke Island Lighthouse and the Wells Fargo Building in Charlotte.
- ✚ In South Dakota, Dignity Statue in Chamberlain.
- ✚ In Tennessee, the Korean Veterans Memorial Bridge in Nashville.
- ✚ In Utah, the Salt Palace Convention Center.
- ✚ In Washington State, the Steam Plant Spokane Smokestacks.

Lights On Afterschool is kicking off with a celebration at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School in Oakland, California today.

The American Rescue Plan provided historic resources to expand access to out-of-school time programs. In July, the U.S. Department of Education launched the [Engage Every Student](#)

[Initiative](#), a bold, historic call to action to use funds from the American Rescue Plan, as well as state and local funds, to ensure access to high-quality out-of-school time programs for every child. The Afterschool Alliance is one of five coordinating organizations in this historic new public/private partnership.

Some 24.7 million U.S. children not in an afterschool program would be enrolled, if a program were available to them, according to a [survey of 1,500 parents](#) commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance and conducted by Edge Research in May and June of 2022. That is the highest number ever recorded. Unmet demand for afterschool programs is significantly higher among Latino and Black children (at 60% and 54% respectively) than among children overall (49%). Cost is the top barrier to enroll, cited by 57% of parents as a reason for not enrolling their child. Ninety percent of parents rate the quality of the program their child attends as excellent (51%) or very good (39%).

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.