



MEDIA ALERT  
October 18, 2022

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## **October 20: Afterschool Students to Visit NASA D.C. Headquarters, Meet Virtually with Astronaut Jessica Watkins, Actress Keke Palmer**

### ***Watch Parties Across Country Will Feature NASA Female Role Models***

For *Lights On Afterschool* – the national rally for afterschool, organized by the Afterschool Alliance – NASA will host a virtual event, plus several in-person gatherings, this Thursday featuring a pre-recorded interaction with actress Keke Palmer of Disney’s *Lightyear* posing questions from afterschool students around the country to International Space Station astronaut Jessica Watkins. The event, which is open to media, is hosted by NASA, the Afterschool Alliance, and STEM Next Opportunity Fund’s Million Girls Moonshot.

In Washington, D.C., middle school students from the Life Pieces to Masterpieces and After-School All-Stars DC afterschool programs will attend the event at NASA’s headquarters, participating in hands-on STEM experiences before the conversation with Watkins and Palmer, and joining a live discussion with NASA scientists and STEM leaders afterward. A student leader from [Million Girls Moonshot](#) Youth Flight Crew will moderate. It will be:

- WHEN:** Thursday, October 20, 4:20 – 5:45 PM
- WHERE:** NASA D.C. Headquarters, 300 E St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20546
- ONLINE:** Virtual event will begin at 4:20 PM on the [NASA STEM YouTube channel](#)
- PARTICIPANTS:** NASA, Million Girls Moonshot, Afterschool Alliance leaders, with afterschool students

Afterschool students also will join watch parties featuring NASA female role models, tours, and hands-on activities on Thursday afternoon at the Glenn Research Center: Lakewood Public Library, Lakewood, OH; Goddard Space Flight Center: NASA Goddard Visitors Center, Greenbelt MD; Goddard Space Flight Center: NASA Wallops Visitors Center, Wallops Island, VA; Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA; Marshall Space Flight Center: James A. Lane Boys and Girls Club, Huntsville, AL; and Stennis Space Center: Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast in MS. Students at the D.C. and Maryland events will receive STEM activity kits from COSI, the Center of Science and Industry.

**Media interested in attending the event in D.C. must register in advance with [Lisa Lederer](#), 202/371-1997.**

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**About *Lights On Afterschool***

Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* is the only national rally for afterschool. Thousands of events around the country showcase the many ways afterschool programs support student well-being, build their life skills and workforce readiness, amplify their voices, provide them with opportunities for hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning, and help them forge successful futures. The Afterschool Alliance organizes *Lights On Afterschool* to underscore the need to invest in afterschool programs, which play an important role in the lives of children, families, and communities.

#### **About STEM Next Opportunity Fund**

STEM Next Opportunity Fund is playing a critical role in bringing in- and out-of-school STEM learning opportunities to millions of children and closing the gender gap in STEM careers. In September 2020, STEM Next launched [The Million Girls Moonshot](#), which seeks to re-imagine who can engineer, who can build, who can make. It will inspire and prepare the next generation of innovators by engaging one million more girls in STEM learning opportunities through afterschool and summer programs by 2025. It is joined by over 50 [partners](#) that have quickly turned Moonshot into a powerful movement for STEM equity. Learn more about the Million Girls Moonshot at [milliongirlsmoonshot.org](http://milliongirlsmoonshot.org) and connect on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).