



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“[Program Name] to Celebrate *Lights on Afterschool Week*”

[City Name] Event is Part of Nationwide Celebration of Afterschool Programming

[Your City]- Hundreds of children, parents, business and community leaders will come together on October 22, 2015 to promote the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of New Jersey’s youth as part of the 16th annual nationwide *Lights On Afterschool* celebration. Last year, over one million people celebrated the importance of and demand for afterschool nationwide during *Lights on Afterschool*.

In **[city/county]**, **[name of program]** will be holding a celebration as part of *Lights on Afterschool* on **[date]** from **[time]** to **[time]**. **[Insert information about your celebration here. What activities will be taking place? Will there be a tour? Is anyone speaking?]**

According to *America After 3PM* data released in 2014, only 16% of New Jersey’s K-12 youth participate in afterschool programs, while 19% are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. Despite this, 36% of New Jersey’s children who are not in an afterschool program have indicated that they would likely participate if one were available in their community. "Unfortunately, we don’t have enough afterschool programs to accommodate this demand," said **[program staff/director]**. "This event, like events throughout the state, will showcase the high quality afterschool programming that should be available to all of New Jersey’s youth."

Lights On Afterschool is organized by the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children have access to quality afterschool programs. NJSACC, NJ’s Statewide Afterschool Network is More information on the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* and *America After 3PM* is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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