



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI

**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**Boys & Girls Club Participates in National Lights on Afterschool Celebration**

*Children, Parents, Community Leaders Join 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Rally*

**\*\*\*Your Coverage is Invited \*\*\***

**What:**

In the month of October, in conjunction with 7,500 events throughout the nation and with over a million people who will be urging leaders to show support for afterschool programs that keep children safe, inspire them to learn and help working families, the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's 16 Club locations in Cole Camp, Green Ridge, La Monte, Leeton, Smithton and Sedalia will be celebrating *Lights on Afterschool*.

This year is the 11<sup>th</sup> annual rally for *Lights on Afterschool*. In communities today, 15.1 million children take care of themselves after the school day ends. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire learning. Each year this event brings together students, parents, educators, afterschool program directors, and community and business leaders from across the country to show their support for afterschool programs.

In conjunction with *Lights on Afterschool* events nationwide, JCPenney is hosting a "Round-Up" in its stores from Oct. 13-26. During this time, Sedalia JCPenney customers will be invited to round-up their purchases to the nearest whole dollar and donate the difference to afterschool programs in their local

communities that provide life-enriching programs for children in need.

### **Interesting Missouri Afterschool Statistics:**

According to *America After 3PM* data released by the Afterschool Alliance in 2009:

- 32% (318,282) of Missouri's K-12 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. These children spend an average of 9 hours per week unsupervised after school. This is 6 percent higher than the national average.
- Only 12% (120,867) of Missouri's K-12 children participate in afterschool programs. This is three percent lower than the national statistic.
- 16% of Missouri's K-12 children are in the care of their brothers or sisters afterschool. This is two percent higher than the national average.
- 32% (283,634) of all Missouri children not in afterschool would be likely to participate if an afterschool program were available in the community, regardless of their current care arrangement.
- 89% of adults surveyed in Missouri agree that there should be an organized place for children and teens to go after school that allows them opportunities to learn and 83% supported public funding for afterschool programs.

In advance of *Lights On Afterschool* this year, the Afterschool Alliance released a new special report from *America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America*, the most in-depth study ever to explore how America's children spend their afternoons. This special report, *America After 3PM: From Big Cities to Small Towns*, finds that just one in 10 rural schoolchildren attend an afterschool program – a considerably smaller percentage than the national average of 15 percent. Some 18 percent of urban and 13 percent of suburban schoolchildren attend afterschool programs. For more survey results, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM.cfm>.

### **Who:**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's after school program which is working to decrease the significant number of children who have to take care of themselves after school by providing life-enhancing programming for west central Missouri's youth at its 16 Club locations in Cole Camp, Green Ridge, La Monte, Leeton, Smithton and Sedalia.

### **When:**

## **PROCLAMATION – OCTOBER 20**

**Where: Sedalia Mayor Horn's Office**

Time: 1 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration

Come join the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Sedalia Site Directors as Mayor Horn declares October 21, 2010 as "Lights On Afterschool" day in Sedalia and commits the community to ensuring that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

## **SEDALIA CLUBS – OCTOBER 21**

**Where: Heber Hunt Elementary School**

Time: 3 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration- It's About Support!

Show your care about the future of the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Heber Hunt site by checking out the projects Club members have been working on this semester and by helping Club members make posters in support of afterschool programming.

**Where: Horace Mann Elementary School Cafeteria and Gym**

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's Scientific!

Open house, hula hoop presentation and science experiments - what more could you ask for? Come celebrate the amazing things happening at the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Horace Mann Elementary site.

**Where: Parkview Elementary School**

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's all About the Arts!

Join in the fun as Club members dance and showcase the sign language they have been learning over the past few months at the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Parkview site. Also check out the amazing artwork the Club members plan to submit for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Fine Arts Competition!

**Where: Sedalia Middle School Cafeteria and Boys & Girls Club Room**

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's Movie Time!

Come check out the amazing things happening at the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Sedalia Middle School site. Take a second to check out the display of what the Club members have been working on this year and then come enjoy an outdoor movie!

**Where: Skyline Elementary School Cafeteria**

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's A Colorful Club!

Show your support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Skyline Elementary site by coloring paper cutouts of light bulbs and listening as Torch Club members sign a proclamation showcasing the need for afterschool programs and their desire to keep afterschool programs running for years to come.

**Where: Washington Elementary School Cafeteria**

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's About Support!

Show your care about the future of the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Washington site and all afterschool programs by helping Club members make posters in support of afterschool programming.

## **OUTLYING CLUBS – OCTOBER 21**

**Where: Cole Camp School Cafeteria**

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's A Read-A-Thon for Lights On!

Come listen in as the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Cole Camp teen Club members read books to the elementary Club members! Then, try your hand at some environmentally friendly fun by learning how to make Halloween lanterns from recycled materials.

**Where: Green Ridge School**

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's Scientific!

Come check out the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Green Ridge site program and join in the fun science activities.

**Where: La Monte School Cafeteria**

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's all about the Well Lit Arts!

Come get artsy with the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's La Monte site. Let your artistic skills shine and show your support of afterschool programs by: participating in the light bulb poster contest, designing your own clay light bulb, creating a tissue paper light bulb and a papier-mâché light bulb!

**Where: Leeton School Cafeteria**

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's A Pumpkin Painting Contest!

Come showcase your painting skills and show support for the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Leeton site by participating in the papier-mâché pumpkin painting contest!

**Where: Smithton**

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's Poetic!

Come show your support and listen as teen members from the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Smithton site read "I'm Not Afraid of the Dark" and other poems by Kenn Nesbit.