



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Boys & Girls Clubs Participate in National Lights on Afterschool Celebration

Children, Parents, Community Leaders Join 12th Annual National Rally

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

What:

On October 19th and 20th, in conjunction with 7,500 events throughout the nation and with more than a million Americans 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 12th annual rally for *Lights on Afterschool*. In communities today, more than 15 million school-age 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 celebrate the achievements of the youth involved in afterschool programs.

Like so many other afterschool programs around the nation, the Club's sites in Cole Camp, Green Ridge, La Monte, Leeton, Smithton and Sedalia are supported by funding from the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) initiative. Since its creation, the 21st CCLC initiative has provided funding to allow millions of children to attend afterschool programs. *Lights on Afterschool* is

intended to draw attention to the need for more afterschool programs and emphasize the importance of keeping the lights on and the doors open for afterschool programs.

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 after school. 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* last 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 school children 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 school children attend afterschool programs. For more survey results, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM.cfm>.

From October 12 to 25, in conjunction with *Lights on Afterschool* events nationwide, the jcpenny store in the Sedalia Thompson Hills Shopping Center is inviting shoppers to “round-up” their purchases to the nearest whole dollar and donate the difference to the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri. This jcpenny Round-up event assists the Boys & Girls Club with providing at-risk children with access to life-enriching afterschool programs that foster their academic, physical and social development.

Who:

The Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's afterschool 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 19

Where: The Boys & Girls Club's Administrative Office, 3100 Aaron Ave, Sedalia, MO

Time: 4:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration

Come join the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Site Directors and the Sedalia Middle School Torch Club members as Mayor Horn declares October 20, 2011 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. A 24-foot light bulb painted and decorated by the Sedalia Middle School Torch Club members will be on display and will stay illuminated for 24 hours in honor of the celebration.

SEDALIA CLUBS – OCTOBER 20

Where: Heber Hunt Elementary School

Time: 3:30 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 Heber Hunt site by checking out the projects Club members have been working on this semester and by helping Club members color light bulbs.

Where: Horace Mann Elementary School Cafeteria

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It Makes Sense to Get Involved!

Come celebrate the amazing things happening at the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Horace Mann Elementary site and participate in science experiments that will test all your senses.

Where: Parkview Elementary School

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

Join in the fun as Club members dance and perform sign language. Showcase your support of afterschool programming at the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Parkview site by joining Club members in releasing a balloon at the end of the event.

Where: Sedalia Middle School – Room 128

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – We're Becoming Leaders!

Come check out the amazing things happening at the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Sedalia Middle School site and join in the Torch Club officers and members induction ceremony where Club youth will be recognized for becoming leaders in their Club, school and community.

Where: Skyline Elementary School Cafeteria & Gym

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 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 read 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 20

Where: Cole Camp School Cafeteria

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – It's A Spectrum of Fun!

Come celebrate the amazing things happening at the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Cole Camp site and participate in exciting science experiments.

Where: Green Ridge School

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 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 fair activities.

Where: La Monte School Cafeteria

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

Come celebrate fall with the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's La Monte site. Let your scientific skills shine and show your support of afterschool programs by: participating in a fall food tasting contest, guessing the weight of pumpkins, graphing leafs and last but not least, gourd bowling.

Where: Smithton

Time: 4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

What: Lights on Afterschool Celebration – Light Up Your Imagination!

Come show your support and get artsy with the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Smithton site as they participate in numerous art projects.