



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Burnsville Youth Collaborative Presents *Lights On Afterschool* Rally
Featuring Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, Student Cooking Demonstrations,
Website Demonstration and Open House of newly renovated GARAGE

Burnsville's Children, Parents, Community Leaders
to Join 16th-Annual National Rally for Afterschool

Burnsville children, parents, businesses, community leaders and media are invited to come together on Monday, Oct. 26 for the *Lights On Afterschool* rally at newly renovated THE GARAGE (75 Civic Center Parkway).

The rally will celebrate afterschool activities and draw attention to the lack of afterschool programs for millions of children nationwide. The gathering will be one of an expected 8,000 such events across the nation emphasizing the importance of keeping the lights on and the doors open for afterschool programs.

Speakers at the rally will highlight the work of students, afterschool providers and various community organizations/businesses that support afterschool programming in Burnsville – as well as celebrate the many benefits of afterschool programs. As at other *Lights On Afterschool* rallies across the nation, Burnsville afterschool supporters urge lawmakers not to deny or divert funding needed for afterschool programs.

What: *Lights On Afterschool Rally*
When: Monday, Oct. 26 | 3-5:30 p.m.
Where: THE GARAGE, 75 Civic Center Parkway, Burnsville

This will be the first *Lights On Afterschool* event coordinated by the newly formed Burnsville Youth Collaborative (BYC). The event will include a cooking demonstration from students taking a healthy cooking class through the University of Minnesota; music demonstrations from kids taking music production lessons; and an introduction to the new BYC youth-driven website.

This year marks the 16th-annual *Lights On Afterschool*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance. More than one million Americans take part in the nationwide rally to support afterschool programs.

“We are all extremely proud of our afterschool students and the incredible work they’re doing,” said Christian Kibler, BYC Program Coordinator. “Afterschool programs do an outstanding job of keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn and helping working families.”

A 2014 “[America After 3PM](#)” household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide. However, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate if a program were available. One in five students in the U.S. today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

For the ninth consecutive year, the Empire State Building was scheduled to be lit up in yellow to celebrate *Lights on Afterschool* on October 22. National organizations supporting *Lights On* this year include *America’s Promise*, *Bright House Networks*, *Campfire*, *LEGO® Education*, *New York Life*, *Torani*, *the National League of Cities*, *the National Recreation & Park Association*, *STEMfinity*, *the Association of Science-Technology Centers*, *the National Association of Police Athletic League*, and many others.

More information on the Afterschool Alliance and Lights On Afterschool is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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