

PROCLAMATION

Much of a child's learning takes place outside the classroom. As they grow, it is crucial that our kids have opportunities to explore interests, discover talents and develop skills so that they can become successful adults. I am a big believer in after-school programs, which provide great ways to foster continued education and engage our students in meaningful activity once the last school bell rings.

Many youth are alone at home between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol and sex. California's after-school programs fill this time constructively, providing tutoring to help bolster academic performance and enhancing our children's core curriculum through the arts, sports and community service, among other activities. The result is more ambitious, motivated young people.

Lights On Afterschool Day presents a chance for all Californians to recognize the positive impact after-school services have in our communities and the integral role they play in our kids' daily lives. I applaud the educators, parents and community organizers who have worked hard to implement valuable programs that benefit many of our youth. Today, let us all support these fantastic efforts to give our children every opportunity to reach their potential and build bright futures.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim October 22, 2009, as "Lights on Afterschool Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 20th day of October 2009.



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California

ATTEST:

DEBRA BOWEN
Secretary of State