



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

MEDIA ADVISORY

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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

*****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 10th annual rally for *Lights on Afterschool*. 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 support of this national rally for afterschool program support, the top of the Empire State Building will be glowing with yellow lights and the historic Los Angeles City Hall Lindbergh Beacon will be lit by city officials. For the first time, national landmarks on both coasts will be beaming with support for afterschool programs on Thursday, October 22.

Interesting Missouri Afterschool Statistics:

As shown in the newly released *America After 3PM* survey of 666 households in Missouri conducted by RTi, a market research firm and sponsored by the JCPenny Afterschool Fund, there is a vast demand for afterschool programs in Missouri because almost one third of Missouri's children go unsupervised after school.

- 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.

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:

October 22 – National Lights on Afterschool Celebration

Smithton Club presents “*A Light in the Attic for Lights on Afterschool*”

From: 4 – 6 p.m.

At: Smithton School Cafeteria

In Celebration of Lights on Afterschool, the Smithton elementary and teen Club members will be reading, drawing and performing selected poems from Shel Silverstein’s book, *A Light In the Attic*. All parents, Club members, school administrators, community members and city officials are encouraged to come and support *Lights on Afterschool*.

Sedalia Middle School Club – “Lanterns on for *Lights on Afterschool*”

From: 5 – 6 p.m.

At: Sedalia Middle School Entryway

The Club members from the Sedalia Middle School will be setting up a canopy where they will be hanging lanterns and spelling out “Lights on Afterschool,” with bags lit by tea light candles. All parents, Club members, school administrators, community members and city officials are encouraged to come and cut out a letter for *Lights on Afterschool*.

Green Ridge Club– “Family Portrait Night”

From: 6:30 - 7 p.m.

At: Green Ridge Rec Center and School

In order to encourage family building and strengthening, the elementary and teens sites will work in conjunction with the photography module to provide each member with an 8" x 10" family portrait. The teen Club members will be taking the pictures of the families. The night will also feature ideas about simple family meals and the top 10 things families can do together for little or no money. All parents, Club members, school administrators, community members and city officials are encouraged to attend and get their family picture taken.

October 28 & 29

La Monte - "Lights on Afterschool in Conjunction with Parent Teacher Conferences"

From: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

At: La Monte Elementary School

The purpose of this event is to highlight the Club's amazing after school programs like the homework assistance program-Power Hour. At tables set up along the hallway of the elementary school, individuals can find information about the Boys & Girls Club and how the Club has life-enhancing opportunities for La Monte youth. All parents, Club members, school administrators, community members and city officials are encouraged to stop by to see how Power Hour is making a difference.