

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The citizens of Arkansas stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities as they provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills. These programs support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends. They build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families, and adults. They also engage families, schools, and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS: Afterschool programs have risen to the moment to support youth in addressing their social and academic needs as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Afterschool programs continue to provide innovative, hands-on opportunities for youth to reengage in their learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive environment; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's leaders have provided significant guidance in the areas of community involvement and in the education and well-being of our youth, all grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS: Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 20, 2022, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS: Millions of families report they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available; and

WHEREAS: Many afterschool programs across the country are facing operating challenges so severe they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that help our children learn and grow, while assisting them to develop the skills essential for success in life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 20th, 2022, as

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 9th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2022.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State