



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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8,000 Events Nationwide Aim to Make Afterschool Programs Available to All
Boys & Girls Club of the Grand Strand to Hold *Lights On Afterschool* Fall Festival October 25, 2019

The Boys & Girls Club of the Grand Strand afterschool program will sponsor a Lights On Afterschool Fall Festival on **October 25, 2019, from 4 – 7 pm**. The event will be one of more than an expected 8,000 such events across America as part of Lights On Afterschool, the annual nationwide celebration of afterschool programs organized by the Afterschool Alliance. This year, ***Lights On Afterschool*** will highlight youth voices in the upcoming national election, encouraging kids to share their thoughts with the next president and teaching them about our electoral process.

City Council Members, local business leaders, educators and other officials. will participate as a demonstration of their support that expanding afterschool opportunities are important to the so that every child who needs a program has access to one. Attendance at the event also means our community understands the benefits of afterschool programs, including inspiring children to learn, keeping them safe in the hours when juvenile crime peaks, and providing relief to working families. The event will spotlight the range of programming available at the Boys & Girls Club of the Grand Strand including its Character and Leadership and Academic Success, particularly those focused on STEM, academic support, physical fitness, and those featuring community partners. Local businesses have set up booths to provide food, fun and prizes for the youth.

What: Boys & Girls Club of the Grand Strand ***Lights On Afterschool*** Fall Festival

When: October 25, 2019 4-7 pm

Where: 500 North 4th Street at the Family Life Center across the street from First Baptist Church

On October 16, a new report from the more than 5,000 sheriffs, police chiefs, and prosecutors of the organization Fight Crime: Invest in Kids – which is part of the Council for a Strong America -- spotlighted data documenting positive outcomes for children and teens who participate in high quality afterschool programs. The report, released in conjunction with Lights On Afterschool, showed that the hours immediately following school remain the “prime time for juvenile crime.” The group analyzed FBI crime data from 36 states and found that the majority suffered spikes in crime from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. The report went on to describe afterschool programs as one of the nation's best crime prevention strategies, an effective way to guide young people toward success in school and readiness for productive careers.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children have access to quality afterschool programs. More information on Lights On Afterschool is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

About the Boys and Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club of the Grand Strand has been in the forefront of youth development, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social and family circumstances for over 20 years. The Boys & Girls Club of the Grand Strand has actively sought to enrich the lives of girls and boys. We are dedicated to ensuring that our community's disadvantaged youngsters have greater access to quality programs and services that will enhance their lives and shape their futures. We are located in the heart of Myrtle Beach.