



Gary Richard Herbert
Governor

Declaration

Whereas, high quality afterschool programs help keep young people healthy and safe, as well as foster meaningful relationships and engage students in relevant, worthwhile and challenging activities;

Whereas, research indicates high quality afterschool programs that provide expanded learning opportunities for young people outside the school day improve academic achievement and support working families;

Whereas, during the year 2010, 28% of Utah's K-12 children were responsible for taking care of themselves after school and 84% of adults surveyed in Utah agree there should be "some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school";

Whereas, 74 percent of Utah women with children between the ages of 6 and 17 are employed;

Whereas, the hours between 3 and 6 p.m. are generally peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex;

Whereas, the Utah Afterschool Network (UAN) and the Afterschool Utah Association (AUA) are committed to out-of school-time programs that provide rich learning experiences and produce positive participant outcomes aligned with education reform, 21st century workforce content and skills, and physical wellness initiatives;

Whereas, UAN and AUA seek to realize this vision by mobilizing communities and educators to invest in afterschool programs in order to enhance policies that ensure positive outcomes for Utah's children and youth; and

Whereas, *Lights On Afterschool* is a celebration of afterschool programs promoting the critical importance of quality programs for youth by ensuring lights stay on and doors remain open for all youth during the out-of school time hours;

Now, Therefore, I, Gary, R. Herbert, Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare the month of October 2011, as

Lights On Afterschool Month

Gary R. Herbert
Governor