



**CLAYTON COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION**

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department to host a nationally recognized event “Lights on Afterschool.”

The Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department Afterschool Program (P.A.R.K.) will sponsor a Lights on Afterschool Rally Thursday, October 20th from at 4:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The rally will be one of more than 7,500 similar events around the nation that day recognizing the 12th annual celebration. Speakers in Clayton County will call for expanding afterschool opportunities so that every child who needs a program has access to one. At the event, parents and supporters will sign a new petition that urges lawmakers not to deny or divert funding for afterschool programs. Participants will include local community leaders, local business leaders, educators, and various performers. The event will highlight three of the significant contributions that afterschool programs make to Clayton County. Keeping kids safe and healthy, inspiring them to learn, and relieving working parents of worries about their children's activities during the afternoon hours.

- **What:** Clayton County Parks and Recreation Lights On Afterschool Rally
- **When:** 4:00p.m.-7:30pm, October 20, 2011
- **Where:** Clayton County International Park 2300 Hwy 138 Jonesboro, 30236
- **Who:** Local community leaders, business leaders, and other supporters.

Additional Information about Lights on After School:

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is Founding Chair of *Lights on Afterschool*, a position he has held since 2001. P.A.R.K. which represents Providing Academics Recreation and 4-H for Kids is the afterschool program of Clayton County Parks and Recreation. We offer a comprehensive program that nurtures and supports student achievement, personal development and offers alternatives to keeping kids off the streets and in a safe and productive environment. The After School Program is housed in three recreation centers and serves kids ages 5-13. Each center offers various structured activities including: homework assistance, field trips, specialty camps, fall, winter and spring break camps and Actividays when school is out.

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.

“We Connect Communities through People, Parks and Programs”