



# The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian Joins Nationwide Celebration of Afterschool Programs

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## MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - MERIDIAN

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The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian highlights its Launch into Learning afterschool program during nationwide *Lights On Afterschool* rally.

**Meridian, Miss. (October 4, 2023)** – On Tuesday, October 17, the Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian (MCM-Meridian) will celebrate its Launch into Learning afterschool program during the 24<sup>th</sup> annual *Lights On Afterschool* nationwide rally organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

*Light On Afterschool* is a national event that highlights the importance of quality afterschool programming to our community and state and the important role it plays in the lives of children and families.

MCM-Meridian's *Lights On Afterschool* celebration will feature a gallery of students' creations in the areas of literacy and STEAM, enabling caregivers to see the progress and achievements of their children in this program. The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. with remarks from MCM-Meridian's Executive Director, Barbara Zeller, followed by a gallery preview and light dinner.

**What:** MCM-Meridian's *Lights On Afterschool* Rally

**When:** 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023

**Where:** 403 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Meridian, MS 39301

Millions of Americans have participated in *Lights On Afterschool* events over the years, and thousands of events are in the works this year.

The events give youth a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their afterschool programs, and to send the message that millions more children and youth need quality afterschool programs. (A growing [list of events is available here.](#)) The [Afterschool Alliance](#) organizes *Lights On Afterschool* to underscore the need to invest in afterschool programs, which provide homework help; mentors; healthy snacks and meals; computer programming; opportunities to think critically, collaborate and communicate with peers and adults; job and college readiness; sports and fitness activities; robotics; art, dance

and music; and continuous opportunities for hands-on, team-based learning.

MCM-Meridian’s Launch into Learning afterschool program began in August 2023 after seeing the overwhelming academic progress of students participating in the program at its flagship location in Jackson, MS.

MCM-Meridian’s staff is committed to providing families with quality childcare during the critical afterschool hours. Launch into Learning serves 30 children each afternoon, providing them with academic enrichment, mentoring and character building, STEAM programming, healthy snacks, and more!

*This is an invitation-only event open to participating Launch into Learning families and MCM-Meridian leadership.*

*Media presence is welcome.*

#### **About the Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian**

The Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian (MCM – Meridian) is the East Mississippi satellite campus of the statewide Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM)—a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that creates unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning. MCM-Meridian is a 25,000-square-foot facility with exhibit space designed around five primary initiatives: Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi History woven throughout all galleries. Outdoors is a 25,000-square-foot exhibit gallery that allows children a safe and magical space to explore and enrich the learning experience. The museum’s exhibits, programs, and outreach opportunities provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. MCM – Meridian is a strategic part of the statewide Mississippi Children’s Museum which is dedicated to inspiring all of Mississippi’s children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. To learn more about MCM – Meridian, visit [www.mcmmeridian.org](http://www.mcmmeridian.org).

#### **About The Afterschool Alliance**

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

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