



MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

MEDIA CONTACT

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THE MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL CELEBRATION FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

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Jackson, Miss. – On Tuesday, **October 21st**, the Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) will join the 26th annual *Lights On Afterschool* celebration, a nationwide series of rallies for afterschool organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

The *Lights On Afterschool* event will celebrate and share information about our afterschool program, Launch into Learning. Dinner will be served to all guests beginning at 5:30 p.m.

What: MCM's *Lights On Afterschool* Celebration

When: 5:30 PM Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Where: Mississippi Children's Museum, 2145 Museum Blvd. Jackson, MS 39202

This event gives attendees a chance to learn more about MCM's afterschool program and showcases the impact that the museum continues to make on education and overall wellbeing in the community. (A growing [list of events are available here.](#)) The [Afterschool Alliance](#) organizes *Lights On Afterschool* events to highlight the importance of investing in afterschool programs that support students' academic, social, and personal development.

MCM's Launch into Learning afterschool program began in 2020 due to the community's need for a safe environment for virtual learning during the pandemic. Since then, MCM's staff has continued to provide families with quality childcare during the critical after-school hours. Launch into Learning currently serves over 100 children each afternoon, providing students with academic enrichment, mentoring and character building, STEAM programming, healthy snacks, and more.

"We're honored to be part of this national event," said Patti Reiss, MCM's Director of Learning Experiences. "In our fifth year of participating, we've seen an even greater need in our community to connect families with afterschool resources. It's a privilege to have families trust the Mississippi Children's Museum to provide quality care and enriching experiences for their children."

As MCM's afterschool program grows, the museum is looking ahead to a dedicated space that will bring its mission to life in new ways. During this event, attendees will hear from museum leadership about exciting expansion plans shaping the next chapter of MCM's future.

MCM's Director of Education and Experiences, Monique Ealey serves as an Afterschool Ambassador, chosen by the Afterschool Alliance – a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. To arrange interviews, contact Monique Ealey at by phone at 601-709-8970 or at monique@mcm.ms.

About the Mississippi Children's Museum

The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission of creating unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning in all children. MCM's two award-winning museums in Jackson and Meridian collectively offer over 100,000-square feet of exhibits and educational programming designed around five primary initiatives, Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi Heritage – the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. MCM offers exceptional resources for children, families, and educators through MCM at Home virtual programming, traveling exhibits and programs, community outreach, *Launch into Learning* afterschool program, professional development for educators, and *Talk from the Start* and *Reach Out and Read*, initiatives for parents and caregivers to promote language development in children from birth to five years old.

MCM is honored to have received an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal, the Mississippi Tourism Association Governor's Award for Travel Attraction of the Year, and USA Today's '10Best Travel Award for Best Children's Museum. Learn more: www.mschildrensmuseum.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.

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