



Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence *"School's Out, Make it Count!"*

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REGISTER TODAY!

Join over 600 out-of-
school time
professionals at
the **2014 Arizona Statewide Out-
of-School Time Conference** and
Awards of Excellence Luncheon.

*"School's Out, Make It Count -
Engaging Youth in Life and
Learning"*

will take place on Saturday,
November 15th, 2014 from 8:00
a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Visit azafterschool.org or [click here](#) to register or reserve your spots today.

Calling All Youth Programs
to

The @fterschool advisor

September 15, 2014

Quality STEM Workshops Announced for Fall Conference

AzCASE is excited to announce our STEM workshop line-up for the **2014 Arizona Out-of-School Time Conference: School's Out, Make it Count: Engaging Youth in Life & Learning**, Saturday, November 15th at the Phoenix Convention Center!

- **"The 5 E's of STEM"** presented by the UofA STEM Center
- **"Go For Launch! Blastoff with Rocketry!"** presented by Kaci Heins and Jennifer Cheesman
- **"STEM on the Cheap"** presented by Eric Larsen, Arizona 4-H
- **"Hands-On STEM Projects"** presented by Harold Gordon, President of Nature-Watch
- **"STEM - It's Your World!"** presented by Amanda Hughens, Manager of STEM Outreach for Grand Canyon University
- **"Rockets to the Rescue"**, the award winning experiment of the 2014 National Youth Science Day competition created and presented by Arizona 4-H

Stay tuned -- we will be announcing the rest of our exciting workshop line-up in the coming weeks! You can **register for the conference today at azafterschool.org/conference.**

**Help Us Build a Quality PD System
for OST Professionals... Your
Feedback Could Win You a Free Gift!**

Participate in Pilot Program

AzCASE invites out-of-school time programs statewide to sign up one or multiple sites to "pilot" of the new **Arizona Out-of-School Time Quality Assessment Tool** when it is rolled out later this fall.

The Assessment Tool is designed and intended to allow OST programs to voluntarily and confidentially measure their quality against the **Arizona Quality Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs**.

150 program sites are needed to test the reliability of this new tool.

To be eligible to be a test site, programs must:

- * be an AZ based out-of-school time program, serving youth afterschool, during the summer, and/or on school breaks
- * serve youth between the ages of 8-15
- * be able to assign a different staff member at each site to serve as an "evaluator" for the pilot

Sites volunteering will be given free copies of the **Arizona OST Quality Assessment Tool** and instructions on how to use the tool. Then, they will turn in test results to AzCASE for scoring by the tool designer. Scores will be confidential and only shared with the designated contact person at each program. Scores of the individual pilot test sites will **NOT** be publicly posted.

Interested in being part of the pilot?

Contact Melanie McClintock at mmcclintock@azafterschool.org or call 480.730.7126 for more information.

AzCASE

AzCASE invites you to participate in a **quick survey** about out-of-school time professional development. In addition to answering a few short questions about your professional development, needs and experiences, we're asking for your **recommendations for quality trainers** to be listed in a new Arizona OST Trainer Registry.

Your input will help us to design future trainings that meet your specific needs.

Plus, your input qualifies you for a raffle for one of three incredible gifts! Take this 5-minute survey and enter your contact information at the end for a chance to **win one of the following prizes:**

- 1) A \$100 Amazon Gift Card
- 2) 4 STEM Activity Kits, **4-H Rockets to the Rescue**
- 3) 1 **AzCASE Annual Conference** Registration (\$90 Value)

Surveys must be submitted by Tuesday, September 30.

We look forward to reading your survey responses as we plan our 2015 training line-up!

Take the Survey Now

Celebrate 15th Annual Lights on Afterschool and Enter To Win

Launched 14 years ago by the Afterschool Alliance, **Lights On Afterschool** is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities.

Lights On Afterschool will be observed nationally on Thursday, October 23rd, 2014.

AzCASE encourages out-of-school time providers statewide to organize local observances that showcase the quality of services provided the youth in your programs. Lights On Afterschool is an excellent opportunity for you to invite your school administrators, faculty, school boards and city officials to tour your programs and see first hand the benefits of quality OST programs. Your

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program plays an important role in the developmental growth and success of the children you serve and it is critical that we strengthen our communication and collaboration with school and local officials.

Here are some ways you can celebrate Lights On Afterschool:

1. **Invite your mayor and city council to tour your out-of-school time program** and plan to highlight the accomplishments and interests of your children.
2. **Share copies of the Arizona Quality Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs.** Promote your signing of the Make It Count Pledge with your mayor and council and invite them to show their support for youth in your community by formally endorsing the Quality Standards as an expectation for all programs in your city.
3. **Take a picture of your Make It Count posters** at your out-of-school time site and send it to your mayor requesting they "join you in supporting quality for out-of-school time programs".
4. **Participate in Rockets to the Rescue**, a 4-H National Youth Science Day Experiment and the theme of this year's Lights On Afterschool on October 8, 2014.

Click here to register your planned events for Lights On Afterschool with the national Afterschool Alliance.

When you register a local Lights on Afterschool event, you will be registered to win five Rockets to the Rescue kits valued at \$120.

For questions, contact Melanie McClintock at info@azafterschool.org or call 480.730.7126.

Thank you for your support of AzCASE happenings and all you do for Arizona's youth!

Sincerely,

Melanie, Franny, Angelica, Caitlin & Tyandrah
The AzCASE Team

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