



Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence

@fterschool advisor - February 4, 2013

Announcements from the Center



Groundbreaking Work on Summer Learning Released Tomorrow, and You Are Invited!

A groundbreaking new compendium, *Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success*, will be released tomorrow. This seminal work features studies, reports and commentaries on the importance and implementation of afterschool by more than 100 thought leaders including elected officials, educators, researchers, advocates and other prominent figures. Streamed live from the National Press Club in Washington, DC, this book release webcast will feature editor Terry K. Peterson, Ph.D., and other contributors.

[Register now](#) to be part of the conversation as these leaders highlight the bold and persuasive evidence from the field that engaging opportunities - drawing from robust partnerships - yield positive outcomes for students and for community and family engagement in learning.

Produced by the [Expanded Learning and Afterschool Project](#), this event and publication are made possible by the [C.S. Mott Foundation](#).

Speakers include...

- **Mayor Christopher Coleman**, City of St. Paul, MN
- **Gail Connelly**, Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals
- **Delia Pompa**, Vice President for Education, National Council of La Raza
- **Ayeola Fortune**, Director, Education Team, United Way Worldwide
- **Deborah Lowe Vandell**, Founding Dean, School of Education, University of California, Irvine
- **Jim Kohlmoos**, Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education

and more!

Following the release, an online version of the compendium will be

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About Us



The **Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence** is dedicated to the enhancement of child and youth development and educational achievement through quality afterschool programming.

[More about AzCASE>>](#)

available, or the book can be purchased through Amazon.com.

**Tuesday, February 5, 2013
9 AM - 11 AM
Live Webcast**

[**Register Now>>**](#)

Space Limited -- Register Now For Creative Fitness Activities Workshop!



Looking for new ideas to make fitness part of your program? Do your kids have a ton of energy to burn off? Do they need a self-esteem boost? We've got you covered, but don't wait or you might miss out on the next great AzCASE training: **"Raising Self-Esteem Through Creative Fitness Activities" with Sandy Slade!**

Afterschool professionals who got the chance to see Sandy in action at our November conference loved her active style and unique and creative ideas for using fitness activities to improve kids' lives. Not only are Sandy's activities appropriate for all ages and abilities, they're also non-competitive and can be taught in a limited amount of space, and are guaranteed to be a whole lot of fun!

You will learn...

- ways to provide a safe learning environment that also provides opportunity for students to develop leadership, communication, and team building skills
- creative and new activities that will improve the health and fitness of all kids, regardless of age or ability
- how easy it is for anyone - including fitness novices! - to implement physical activities in their program

Our January workshops sold out, and space for these is limited, so [register now](#) to make sure you don't miss out!

DATES & LOCATIONS

TUCSON

Facebook

For regular updates on what's happening in the afterschool community, join our network on Facebook!



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Directory](#)

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February 26

9 AM - Noon

Donna Liggins Rec Center
2106 N 6th Ave, Tucson

\$30 a person

PHOENIX

February 27

9 AM - Noon

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living
Conference Center

5025 E. Washington St, Phoenix

\$30 a person

FLAGSTAFF

February 28

9 AM - Noon

Flagstaff Family Resource Center
4000 N Cummings St, Flagstaff

\$30 a person

REGISTER NOW!

Questions? Contact 602.496.3308 or info@azafterschool.org

**Want an Amazon.com Gift Certificate?
Add Your Program to the AZ Afterschool
Program Directory by March 1!**



Help your program reach more families AND have the chance to win a \$250 Amazon.com gift certificate! Add your program to the directory by March 1 for a chance to win! Parents and families are using the new [AZ Afterschool Program Directory](#) as they begin to look for spring and summer programs, so this is the perfect time to add or update your program's information to database for families to find!

The [Directory](#) is the state's only bilingual, centralized database of organized afterschool and out of school time programs. Its powerful search features allow parents and families to look for both summer and school year programs based on geographic location, age, and programming criteria among other options. Join the Directory and make your program accessible to families across the state as they begin looking for spring and summer options for their kids!

Add your site by March 1st and be automatically entered to win one of two \$250 Amazon.com gift certificates!

Updating or entering data into the directory is easy!

- **If your program already has a login**, enter the directory to review your data and update your information so families can better find you.
- **If you do not yet have a login**, create one and enter the requested data to make your site readily accessible to Arizona families looking for quality afterschool programming!

[Click here to go to the Arizona Afterschool Directory!](#)

Questions? Watch the [video tutorial](#) or contact AzCASE at info@azafterschool.org or 602.496.3308.

**Show Arizona How Afterschool Changes Lives -
Submit Your Story by March 15!**



The [Expect More Excellence Tour](#) is up and running, which means it's time for you to enter your program for consideration! The tour recognizes programs, schools, and organizations that are setting expectations high and moving us closer to world-class excellence for all Arizona kids.

We know that there are afterschool programs changing lives across the state, and it is crucial that programs tell those stories to raise awareness of the vital work you do and positive impact you are having with children and youth in communities from Phoenix to Flagstaff, Morristown to Marana and beyond!

Entries are categorized as representing one or more of the following:

- Communities Working Together
- Excellence for All
- World-Class Achievement
- Commitment to Innovation
- Strategic Investment

Afterschool programs exemplify all of those qualities, which is why this high profile competition is an important opportunity to bring afterschool to the public's attention. Submit your program for a chance to become an Excellence Spotlight stop and to increase recognition of the important impact afterschool has on education for our children and youth!

Submissions received by March 15 are eligible to be selected as an Excellence Spotlight and receive \$1000. They must have a written piece, and are strongly encouraged to include a video or photo element.

[Learn more about the Expect More Excellence Tour>>](#)

[See the categories and criteria for selection>>](#)

[Enter your program for consideration!>>](#)

It's Not Too Late - Take the Afterschool For All Challenge on Thursday!



Join others across the country on Thursday by contacting Congress in support of afterschool! With fiscal uncertainty so rampant, it's an crucial time to let Congress know about the need for more afterschool resources for our kids, families and communities. **You** are the local experts on afterschool, so the Afterschool Alliance is asking you to call, meet and email Congress on Afterschool for All Challenge day on Thursday, February 7. With the [Take Action Tool Kit](#), it couldn't be easier to make a difference!

With only 3 days left, there are still things you can do to make your voice heard for afterschool:

- [Call or email Congress](#) and ask them to support afterschool programs for working families.
- [Encourage your contacts to take action.](#)

While you're advocating for kids in Arizona, AzCASE and the Afterschool Alliance will be at work in Washington backing up your outreach at home through face-to-face meetings with Congress during the meeting of the National Network of Statewide Afterschool Networks. Don't miss this day of action, a perfect opportunity to speak up for afterschool!

[Pledge to take action and learn more about the Challenge! >>](#)

Maricopa County Programs Only: ASPIRE Project Recruiting for Professional Development and Coaching Program

Are you a Maricopa County afterschool or summer program serving youth 10 to 18 years old? The ASPIRE project, run by the University of Arizona and sponsored by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, is currently recruiting youth development and after school programs to receive a broad range of interactive resources created to support positive youth development.

Through twice a year video observations and ongoing coaching, programs receive feedback about program performance and resources to support improvement. Programs will also be able to participate in learning communities allowing the opportunity to share ideas and strategies, and will receive a stipend to help cover recording equipment and professional development costs.

The deadline to register is February 22nd, so act now to take advantage of this two-year opportunity to receive feedback from master coaches and increase quality at your site!

[Learn more or register your program today>>](#)

Focus on Health

Afterschool programs play a key role in the health and well-being of youth through activities that encourage healthy behaviors, an environment that includes a healthy snack or meal, and opportunities for physical activity. This section features new topics, resources, curriculum ideas and activities to help you ensure youth are fit, healthy, and ready to learn. [See a complete list of our afterschool health resources here>>](#)

Help Girls Dance Their Way To Better Mental Health!



Looking for a way to help girls improve mental health? A recent study from Sweden found that the impact of participating in dance classes with an emphasis on the joy of movement rather than on performance had a positive impact on adolescent girls for up to a year after their involvement.

Dance is a great outlet for youth who are looking for a non-competitive way to stay active, and offers the added benefits of tapping into creativity and allowing kids to make like-minded friends, a key determiner of continued participation in a program or activity. You don't have to be a prima ballerina to reap the benefits, so get your dancing shoes on!

[Read more about the study's findings in Education Week>>](#)

Health Funding Opportunities

Mantis Gardening Equipment Grants

Deadline: March 7

The National Gardening Association and Mantis will give 25 charitable and educational garden programs a Mantis Tiller/Cultivator with border/edger and kickstand and the choice of a gas-powered 2-cycle engine or electric motor. All nonprofits that enhance their local communities are eligible. Past winners include community gardens, schools, ministries, colleges, master gardening groups, and hospices.

[More information>>](#)

ING Run for Something Better School Awards

Deadline: May 15

Working in partnership with the National Association for Sports and Physical Education, ING will provide grants to establish a school-based running program or expand an existing one (before, during or after school hours). Awards are available to programs that target

grades Kindergarten through 8th grade in elementary or middle schools. The awards program will provide a minimum of fifty (50) grants up to \$2,500 for each school that desires to establish a school based running program or expand an existing one. Through activity plans created by NASPE and based on the National Standards for Physical Education, the awards program will offer children a healthy start to life and foster their desire to exercise before obesity ever begins.

[More information>>](#)

APS Foundation Grants

Deadline: Rolling

Through Corporate Giving, APS supports nonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service tax exempt status through cash and/or in kind services. APS supports local communities in five strategic areas: health and human services, community development, education, arts and culture, and environment. Grants have been awarded to schools, recreation centers, sports programs, and many other community groups. Award amounts vary.

[More information>>](#)

SPARK Health Grants

[Grant Finder Tool](#) allows you to search for Grants by location and program of interest. Grants updated daily.

Arizona's Coordinated School Health Program

Provides current funding opportunities from their partnering organizations.

[View here>>](#)

Do you **LIKE** us?

For regular updates on what's happening
in the afterschool community,
join our network on Facebook!



Afterschool in the News

Elite Schools Struggle to Recruit High Achieving, Low Income Students

It's college admissions season, and admissions counselors at top colleges like Harvard, Stanford, and others are looking to increase economic and other diversity in their incoming classes. The problem? The pool of high achieving, low income high school students largely are not reaching Ivies and other top tier schools looking to provide in some cases free education. Harvard, which has begun offering a free college education to students whose families make less than \$40,000 a year, has

seen only a nominal increase in low income students' enrollment.

According to a recent analysis, over 70 percent of gifted low income students come from a small number of highly regarded schools in major metropolitan areas. This means that in many cases, similarly talented students outside of that geographic and social circle do not have the same environment of peers gravitating towards highly selective schools and mentors or counselors guiding them towards the Ivy league pipeline, despite the opportunities available. This is an area where afterschool and youth development programs can play a significant role to help close the opportunity gap, and increase students' awareness of their options so that whether they wind up at community college, in-state, or at an Ivy, they were able to make an informed decision.

[Read more about the challenges in connecting talented low income youth and elite colleges>>](#)

Governor Brewer Puts Forward Increased Spending for Education, CPS in Proposed Budget

Gov. Jan Brewer introduced her budget and for the first time in years educations and Child Protective Services might be seeing an increase in funding. The governor proposes adding \$109 million for both K-12 and higher education, including \$40 million in one-time funding for Common Core implementation and an increase in funds to pay for school resource officers. CPS, which has seen deep cuts since the recession, would see funding to hire 50 additional case workers immediately with more to follow.

[Read more about the proposed budget and what it means for educations in Arizona>>](#)

School Funding Error Means Windfall for Some, and Scramble to Pay Back for Others

An error in the state's calculation of payments to districts means that virtually all schools in Arizona received either too much or too little funding since 2006. The money, which comes from the voter-approved Proposition 301, funds classroom teachers and instructional support. Mesa stands to receive over \$3 million due to the mistake, while an unidentified charter school will have to pay back \$324,000 it was overpaid. The \$38 million due to schools will be paid out in March, while those that owe money will see it subtracted from their state payments through summer 2014.

[Read the more from the Arizona Republic here>>](#)

Job Opportunities

**HAVE AN AFTERSCHOOL JOB OPENING
TO POST IN OUR NEWSLETTER?**

[Post it here>>](#)

Washington Elementary School District

Afterschool Programs Budget Coordinator (Glendale)

[Read more>>](#)

Challenger Space Center

Outreach Educator (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale

Senior VP of Development & Marketing (Scottsdale)

[Read more>>](#)

Phoenix Elementary School District

Afterschool PEER Lead (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

University of Arizona

Admissions Counselor (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

Science Foundation Arizona

Multimedia Specialist (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

West Side Head Start

Head Start Education Team - multiple positions (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

[View the full list of available positions and descriptions on our website>>](#)

Funding Opportunities

***New opportunities in red**

Children, Youth and Families at Risk Sustainable Community Projects Grants

Deadline: February 20, 2013

The mission of the CYFAR Program is to marshal resources of the Land-Grant and Cooperative Extension Systems so that, in collaboration with other organizations, they can develop and deliver educational programs that equip youth who are at-risk for not meeting basic human needs with the skills they need to lead positive, productive, and contributing lives. The CYFAR SCP supports community educational programs for at-risk children, youth, and families which are based on locally identified needs, soundly grounded in research, and which lead to the accomplishment of one of four CYFAR National Outcomes: Early Education, School Age, Teen, and Parent and Family.

Maximum Award Amount: \$80,000

[More information>>](#)

APS Foundation STEM Grants

Deadline: March 1, 2013

The APS Foundation believes that the support of STEM is necessary to provide the next generation of our state's workforce with the skills and resources they will need to keep Arizona workers strong and competitive.

The APS Foundation considers requests from registered 501(c)(3) public charities and engages in grantmaking that supports Arizona's youth and educational leaders focused on both K-12 students and college/university partnerships

Grants support projects and programs that address the critical issues in STEM through one or more of the following criteria:

- Address the educational needs in the state of Arizona within the STEM subject areas
- Introduce a course of study and/or career path within the STEM subject areas
- Enhance student achievement and align with the state of Arizona's academic standards
- Provide teachers with the training and support they need
- Recruit and retain qualified teachers
- Provide programming to rural communities
- Leverage the organization's ability to grow sustainable programs with large scale reach and measurable impact

Special consideration will be given to programs that focus on underrepresented minorities and/or girls programming.

[More information>>](#)

Sundt Grants Program

Deadline: March 15, 2013

The Sundt Foundation funds activities and programs undertaken by nonprofit organizations that improve the quality of life for disadvantaged children in the communities where Sundt has an established office (Phoenix, Tucson).

Award Amount: \$1,000 - \$10,000

[More information>>](#)

Freeport McMoRan K-12 STEM Grants

Deadline: March 15, 2013

The Freeport-McMoRan Foundation supports K-12 public and private schools with their STEM Innovation Grants. These grants are designed to support K-12 teachers and schools in their efforts to develop, improve or expand innovative instructional programs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Applicants may be teachers, school administrators or parent volunteers/PTA officials at public and private schools located in or near communities where Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold has a presence. K-12 schools are the only organizations eligible for this support.. Grants up to \$5,000 will be awarded to support projects in the eligible project categories.

[More information>>](#)

Arts Learning Project Grants for Schools and Organizations

Deadline: March 21, 2013

The Arizona Commission on the Arts offers two sets of grants to pay for artist fees, travel, and per diem expenses for guest artists. School and districts as well as social service and community organizations are eligible to apply. Matching is required, and the funding period runs from July 1 2013-June 30, 2014.

[More information>>](#)

Rural Book Donation Program**Deadline: March 30, 2013**

The Road to Reading's Annual Competitive Book Donation Program donates hard and soft-covered books to organizations that have a strong focus on remedial reading or tutoring. Organizations must have 501(c)3 tax status, should be located in an under-served community whose population is under 50,000, and must have an organization budget of \$150,000 or less. The books that are available through this program are appropriate for ages 6 months to young adult. Eligible organizations include individual schools, libraries, community literacy programs, and childcare centers.

[More information>>](#)

Monsanto Fund Grants**Deadline: February 28, 2013**

Monsanto gives grants of varying amounts to tax-exempt public charities, public libraries, and K-12 schools. The company focuses on K-12 education and human needs and services. Sample eligible projects include support of state science and technology fairs, family science nights for students of a local elementary school at an area science center, after-school program for children of migrant farm workers, or school gardens.

[More information>>](#)

Free Books From First Book National Book Bank**Deadline: Rolling**

The First Book National Book Bank distributes large quantities of publisher-donated brand-new books to programs serving children from low-income families. The books are free to organizations that are able to pick them up or just the cost of shipping to have them shipped. After registering with First Book, organizations will receive email notifications alerting them when book distribution applications are available. Eligible organizations must either be a Title 1 school, a specially-designated government institution, or a non-profit organization with at least 80% of the children coming from low-income families.

[More information>>](#)

Teachers Helping Teachers Award**Deadline: Rolling**

Know a teacher who's always willing to lend a hand to fellow teachers? Nominate them for the Literacy Empowerment Foundation's Teachers Helping Teachers Award! Winners are selected weekly and receive \$100 worth of books for their school's library and a certificate acknowledging their achievement!

[More information>>](#)

Office Depot Foundation Grants**Deadline: Rolling**

The Office Depot Foundation is offering donations to non-profit

organizations, schools, and libraries that bring systemic change to their communities. Grant amounts will be between \$50-10,000 with the majority of grants in the vicinity of \$1,000. When inventory allows, grants will be supported by in-kind donations.

[More information>>](#)

Batters Up USA Equipment Grants

Deadline: Rolling

Batters Up USA provides free baseball and softball equipment (including bats, balls, tee ball sets, helmets, catcher's gear, and bases) to local organizations. The company serves boys and girls recreational programs up to age 13. Priority will be given to programs serving a high percentage of youth in need, such as inner-city and after-school programs. Equipment will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

[More information>>](#)

Do Something Project Grants

Deadline: Rolling

Do Something is offering \$500 grants to youth under 25 who have recently created a sustainable community action project, program, or organization. The grants facilitate the growth and success of student programs and are awarded weekly. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and stay active for consideration 3 months after submission.

[More information>>](#)

[Find more resources and funding opportunities on our website>>](#)

Awards, Contests & Fellowships

2013 Excellence in Summer Learning Award

Deadline: February 8

The National Summer Learning Association's Excellence in Summer Learning Award recognizes outstanding summer programs that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for young people between kindergarten and twelfth grade. In addition to recognizing the Excellence Award-winning programs, NSLA will also recognize summer learning innovations in high-interest categories such as, but not limited to: Family Engagement, Digital Learning, Health and Nutrition, Early Literacy, and New Vision for Summer School. All programs also receive detailed written feedback--highlighting both strengths and recommendations for improvement based on NSLA's quality standards.

[More information>>](#)

Coconino County Caring for Children Awards

Deadline: February 8

CCC&Y is now accepting nominations for the Annual Caring for Children

Awards. Selected winners will be recognized at the Annual Child Abuse Prevention Kick-Off Luncheon scheduled for Thursday, March 28th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Acceptable nominations can be for any Coconino County resident or provider giving direct service, care and support to children and youth. Take the time to honor and support that person in your agency or your life who is committed to the health and success of children and youth!

[More information>>](#)

Disney Friends for Change Program

Deadline: February 10

Disney Friends for Change Grants offer young change-makers an opportunity to receive a \$1,000 grant to help make a lasting, positive change in the world. Eligible applicants include youth (ages 5-18) who are passionate about protecting the planet, providing meals to those in need, or helping other kids get the resources they need to star in their own play, be an athlete, or be an artist.

[More information>>](#)

Innovation in Reading Prizes

Deadline: February 20

Each year, the National Book Foundation awards a number of prizes of up to \$2,500 each to individuals, organizations, and schools that have developed innovative ways of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading. In addition to promoting the best of American literature through the National Book Awards, the Foundation seeks to expand the audience for literature in America. Through the Innovations in Reading Prizes, those individuals and institutions that use particularly innovative methods to generate excitement and a passionate engagement with books and literature will be rewarded for their creativity and leadership.

[More information>>](#)

Doodle 4 Google Competition

Deadline: March 22

Who doesn't love Google's doodles? Give your K-12 students the chance have their very own drawing featured by Google in the Doodle 4 Google competition! This year, students are asked to exercise their creative imaginations around the theme "My Best Day Ever..." Not only will the winner's artwork will be featured on Google's home page, but he or she will also win a \$30,000 scholarship, a \$50,000 technology grant for their school, and other prizes!

[More information>>](#)

Trainings & Conferences

Finding & Writing Competitive Grant Applications

February 13, 2013

League of Arizona Cities & Towns Office, Phoenix

This workshop will explore private sector funding sources (foundations and corporations) for small- to mid-size community projects. Dr. Bev Browning, author of *Grant Writing For Dummies* and 39 other grant-related publications will lead workshop participants through traditional and nontraditional private sector funding source databases. In addition, all participants will be led through "what the funder wants to see in this section of your request" writing exercises and what to say when contacting potential funders to determine their interest in funding in your community. There will be adequate time for Dr. Bev to review your writing exercises and provide valuable feedback on how to write to win! All registrants will receive a copy of the trainer's book, [Perfect Phrases for Writing Grant Proposals](#).

[More information>>](#)

Take 25 Webinar

February 14, 2013

10:00 am EST & 4:00 pm EST sessions

Join the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children for a free webinar to learn more about the Take 25 Campaign. During the hour-long webinar, adults will learn the tools and resources needed to engage children in important discussions about their safety. Webinar participants will also get a preview of the organizations' new website, event planning guides, and new safety resources! Together, we can ensure that all children have a safe childhood!

[Learn more>>](#)

A Girl's World Is Different

February 15, 2013

Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix

This multi-track conference, hosted by the Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, will focus on the latest trends in education, relational aggression and human trafficking and how Arizona's girls are being affected. You will hear from experts in their fields as well as attend dynamic workshops for more in-depth discussion on these issues. Whether you're a parent, troop leader, professional in the field or an advocate, join us for this important community discussion on the challenges girls face every day and how you can keep more girls on a positive path to health, safety and success.

[More information>>](#)

Packaging Your Assets to Attract Corporate Partners -- Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits

February 21, 2013

Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

Slice and dice your existing assets into a package with maximum appeal for corporate partners. You will leave with documents in hand, ready to take to prospective companies and small businesses that will get you more support and exposure.

[More information>>](#)

Creative Fitness Activities with Sandy Slade

February 26, 9-Noon, Tucson (Donna Liggins Rec Center)
February 27, 9-Noon, Phoenix (ABIL Conference Center)
February 28, 9-Noon, Flagstaff (FUSD Family Resource Center)

Looking for great activities and strategies to keep you kids happy and healthy? Register now for AzCASE's February Training, "Raising Self-Esteem Through Creative Fitness Activities!" with Sandy Slade, a hit at the 2012 Conference. Getting active keeps kids healthy, sets them on the path for a better future, and raises their self-esteem. Sandy's activities are fun, easy to implement, and guaranteed to be a hit! Learn how anyone can make fitness part of afterschool at this lively active training!
[More information>>](#)

2013 Forum on Nonprofit Effectiveness

March 1, 2013, Doubletree Hotel - Reid Park, Tucson

Join nonprofit leaders and business professionals as they discuss ways to increase organizational capacity, sustainability and expansion - and how to put this into practice at your organization. Today's three traditional sources of funding (earned income, government, and philanthropy) are important, fundamental sources for nonprofit operations. However, there may be more for your organization...capital financing. This emerging fourth resource stream is part of the innovative movement occurring within the social sector. Explore with others how your organization's impact on the communities you serve can be punctuated with capital investment.

[More information>>](#)

22nd Annual Celebrate the Young Child Conference

March 9, 2013, Glendale Civic Center

One of the largest Early Childhood Conferences in Arizona, the Celebrate the Young Child Conference provides a full day of training for over 600 early childhood professionals. It is sponsored by Association for Supportive Child Care and the Arizona Child Care Association, and offers professional development and networking opportunities.

[More information>>](#)

Ready By 21 National Meeting

March 11-13, 2013, Atlanta, GA

Join hundreds of fellow national, state and local leaders committed to improving policies and practices for young people at the National Meeting of Ready By 21. Participants will connect with other leaders through keynotes, panels, and small group discussions and peer learning circles. There are a series of sessions specifically created for afterschool leaders including: Moving from quality improvement findings to quality improvement systems, Strengthening out-of-school time through quality improvement systems: Lessons from the field, Youth Driven Spaces: Engaging youth within your community, and more.

[More information>>](#)

Kids Included Together International Conference on Inclusion 2013

March 13-15, 2013, San Diego, CA

Attend the KIT International Inclusion Conference to learn new strategies to include kids with special needs, and ways to advocate for children and promote inclusion, as well as the chance to network with other providers and inclusion practitioners. Early bird rate ends February 13th!

[More information>>](#)

SARRC Conference - Bullying & Autism: What We Know and What We Can Do About It

April 26-27, 2013, Scottsdale Public Library Civic Center Auditorium

This conference, hosted by the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center, will address what is known from research & the relationship between autism spectrum disorders and bullying-from prevention to intervention.

[More information>>](#)

Best of Out of School Time Conference

May 1-4, 2013, Palm Springs, CA

BOOST invites you to join the nation's largest, most recognized and comprehensive conference for after school and out-of-school time professionals. Set in a retreat-like atmosphere, this conference promises to rejuvenate your passion and boost your direction for quality programming.

[More information>>](#)

Community Events

YouthBuild Phoenix Information Session

February 5, 9:00 AM

Maricopa Skills Center

1245 E Buckeye Road, Room A-231

Do you know any young people ages 18-24 who have dropped out of school and are interested in earning their GED while also earning a construction certificate? Jobs for Arizona's Graduates is hosting a YouthBuild Information session, the first step to participating in this great program to help out of school youth complete high school and get started on a career path.

To reserve a spot, call 602.721.9243

[More information>>](#)

Arizona SciTech Festival

February 9 - March 17, events across the state

Looking for an awesome event to attend to learn more about science, technology and innovation in the great state of Arizona? The time has come for the Arizona SciTech Festival once again!

A sampling of events across the state:

Teen Career Conference at the Phoenix Zoo**February 9, Noon - 3 PM*****C.W. & Modene Neely Education and Event Center at the Phoenix Zoo***

The Phoenix Zoo is excited to host its second annual Teen Career Conference! This is an opportunity for teens and their parents to explore many different careers in animal science. Attendees will learn about a wide range of animal science fields directly from dedicated professionals who have made animal care and conservation their life's work. Volunteer opportunities, camps, and other programs will all be highlighted.

All guests must pre-register online at phoenixzoo.org or by calling reservations at 602-914-4333

[More information>>](#)

Glendale Science of Chocolate Extravaganza**February 8-10*****Downtown Glendale***

In the middle of Arizona's premiere chocolate festival in historic Downtown Glendale, there will be demonstrations of chocolate's scientific and medicinal properties. This is a free admission chocolate festival, with over 3 dozen chocolatiers, kids' rides, musical performances, chocolate factory tours (Cerreto's), festival food, and more.

[More information>>](#)

Mad Science: "Hands-on-Science, Fun-damental Forces"**February 13, 4-5 PM*****Eckstrom-Columbus Branch Library, Tucson***

Gravity, inertia, centripetal force - who could imagine that an introduction to physics could be so much fun? We'll check out these awesome forces and build some devices to watch them at work! Call 594-5285 to sign up for this free library program. Space is limited.

[More information>>](#)

"Weather or Not: Art With Atmosphere" Exhibition Teacher**Preview Night****February 13, 4:30-6 PM*****Arizona Museum for Youth, Mesa***

Teachers can preview the new exhibition and enjoy refreshments, door prizes and make-and-take art activities. Our artfully meteorological exhibit will present artist's representations of wind, rain, sleet, snow, hurricane, tornado, sun and fog...and offer a little light climatology on the side. Emphasis will be on creative movement, fundamentals found through reading, stormy weather art-making activities and the opportunity to present today's weather forecast in front of the green screen television camera (creativity & imagination).

Free, call 480.644.4783 to RSVP.

[More information>>](#)

Carl Hayden Falcon Robotics Science Festival**February 15, 5-9 PM*****Carl Hayden High School, Phoenix***

The Falcon Robotics Team is hosting another science festival! This year enjoy even more more attractions and hands-on activities! We will have electric vehicles, fun demos with model rockets, the Navy, robotics, & more!

[More information>>](#)

[Learn more about the festival and find other events>>](#)

Love to Read AZ Family Fair

February 23, 9:00 AM

Burton Barr Library, Phoenix

February is Love of Reading Month! Celebrate with Burton Barr Library, Bookmans Entertainment Exchange and Friends of the Phoenix Public Library at "Love to Read AZ," a community event to promote children's literacy. Families will enjoy crafts, activities, storytelling, live music and a visit from Curious George and other loveable characters. AzCASE will be there too, so come by and say hi!

[More information>>](#)

Resources, Research & Reports: STEM Edition

New Report: Defining Youth Outcomes for STEM Learning Afterschool

The results of a 10 month study of afterschool's role in STEM learning have just been released in a new report by the Afterschool Alliance, and the results are clear - afterschool has a clear role to play in STEM education. The report shows that afterschool STEM programs can have the most impact on students when they focus on developing an interest in STEM and STEM learning activities, developing capacities to productively engage in STEM learning activities, and coming to value the goals of STEM and STEM learning activities.

The report also finds that afterschool programs are best positioned to influence indicators surrounding interest and engagement in STEM rather than content knowledge, such as increasing curiosity about STEM concepts, awareness of STEM professions, ability to relate STEM to real life, and other similar areas.

[Download the STEM Learning Outcomes report>>](#)

Toolkit for Expanding Learning Adds STEM Resources To The Mix

The Toolkit for Expanding Learning created by the Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS) and its partner intermediary organizations continues to grow. The toolkit now includes a [resource guide on urban science exploration](#) for out of school time, a [framework for how to design and run great science activities](#), and a [video](#) on a topic we firmly believe: that STEM afterschool is not a replacement or replication of the classroom, but rather a way to stoke excitement about the concepts.

[See these great resources and more>>](#)

Relating Research to Practice: Making Peer Reviewed Science Research Accessible

Looking for a way to translate peer reviewed informal science education research into, well, English? A new effort by the Afterschool Alliance, the Exploratorium, Kings College London, and the University of Washington is doing just that. [Relating Research to Practice](#) provides short synopses of the growing collection of studies on informal science education, helping show how the findings can inform the practice of afterschool and other informal educators. Briefs cover topics such as [how field trips can spark situational interest in new STEM areas](#), [how science and literacy can best be combined](#), and more

[Stay on the cutting edge with recapped research>>](#)

Curriculum Spotlight: NASA Jet Propulsion Lab

NASA provides a [wealth of educational materials](#). Among them is [My Saturn Spacecraft](#), a three-session project from the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory designed to spark curiosity and build understanding of Saturn, its rings, and robotic missions. The easy to implement activities encourage kids to think like scientists & engineers, understand the engineering process as well as model construction.

[See the JPL's full list of Afterschool STEM activities here>>](#)

Featured Activity

Celebrate President's Day!



President's Day is on February 18th, which makes this month a perfect time for a mini lesson on the executive branch! Pick and choose from the menu of presidential projects below!

Introduction

- Have a conversation with kids about what presidents they know of, and what they know about the job of being president.

- Use this [free book from Scholastic](#) to go over what the job of the president is, from signing bills into laws to meeting with leaders of other nations and leading our armed forces.

Writing

- Let kids flex their writing muscles by explaining what they would do as president using [this prepared page](#) for younger kids, or a longer writing piece for older kids.

Arts & Crafts

- Bring the presidents to your site with this TP Roll President Art Project! Use a toilet paper roll or cut up paper towel rolls, markers or crayons, and cut out templates of [George Washington](#), [Thomas Jefferson](#), [Abraham Lincoln](#), or [Teddy Roosevelt](#) for this fun presidential art project!

Did you have a group of really creative kids who ran with the ideas above? Send us pictures at info@azafterschool.org!



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