



@fterschool advisor – March 1, 2012

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Announcements from the Center

Making Afterschool an Election Issue in 2012



The Afterschool Alliance has released updated versions of its [Campaign Toolkit](#) and its Candidate's Guide to Afterschool. Particularly during presidential election cycles, voters' concerns are brought to the forefront of the public debate and widely discussed in the media. But what concerns will be raised? Whose voices will be heard? What will candidates and pundits focus on? It is the voices of people in local communities that drive candidates' campaigns.

[Download the Campaign Toolkit here>>](#)

Register to Vote in Arizona

[Voter Registration - AZ Secretary of State>>](#)

Important Dates & Deadlines

[General Election>>](#)

July 30, 2012 Voter Registration Ends

August 28, 2012 Primary Election

November 6, 2012 General Election

October 8, 2012 Voter Registration Ends

[Tucson's District 8 Special Election \(Gabrielle Giffords' Seat\) >>](#)

April 17, 2012 Primary Election

June 12, 2012 General Election

More information

Access additional election resources, afterschool talking points, and find your legislators on our website at: <http://azafterschool.org/Resources/Advocacy.aspx>

Register Today for a Training on *High-Energy Summer Programs!*

Tuesday, April 10th, Flagstaff
Wednesday, April 11th, Tempe
Thursday, April 12th, Tucson

Time: 9 a.m. - Noon

Cost: \$30 per person
(Coffee & bagels included)

Join Dr. Gale Gorke of Kids Kan, Inc. and your afterschool and youth development peers for a comprehensive training on *High Energy Summer Programs!*

Participants will engage in a dialogue about what makes a high-energy summer program and **learn strategies to maintain enthusiasm among staff and youth all summer long.**

Take away tools and activities to minimize learning losses over the summer by infusing academic principles in high-energy activities.

All participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

For more information:
contact AzCASE at info@azafterschool.org or 602.496.3308.

Registration is required. [Register online here>>](#)

Calling All Afterschool Artists! Design the 2012 Lights On Afterschool Poster

The Afterschool Alliance wants your artwork for their 2012 *Lights On Afterschool* poster. The deadline for submissions is **May 1, 2012.**

The winning image will be **printed on 70,000 posters** displayed nationwide! Posters are sent to afterschool programs from coast to coast for *Lights On Afterschool* celebrations. The artist and/or program will be credited on the poster, and the image will be featured on our website.

Get inspired: Learn more about our [2011 poster contest winner Nicole Tanner](#) and check out the [2010 gallery of poster submissions](#). Guidelines for creating artwork: [download guidelines.pdf](#)

More information at: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaSubmitArtPoster.cfm>

Rio Salado College Announces Afterschool Certificate Program

[Rio Salado College](#) is pleased to introduce a College Certificate program designed especially for Afterschool/School Age Professionals. The coursework in the School Age specialization of the 16 credit hour Academic Certificate in Child & Family Professional Development provides students with the Level I and II core knowledge identified in the National Afterschool Association's standards for Core Knowledge and Competencies for Afterschool and Youth Development Professionals.

Coursework for this Certificate can be completed online, and with Rio's 48 start dates, you can start at any time. Rio is also working to form education cohorts to complete this certificate program through an in-person course delivery modality. An educational cohort is designed to allow a group of students to work together toward their academic objective. This group starts and ends their program together. For students who live or work a distance from the college, cohort programs are often established at off-campus locations. This enables busy, working adults to further their education in spite of other demands on their time. Experience has shown that students, who participate in a cohort group, often succeed where individual students do not.

Limited scholarship funding is available to support completion of this college certificate.

To learn more about how you can enroll in this program, become a member of a cohort or establish at cohort at your location contact us by phone at 480.517.8120 or by email at early.childhood@riosalado.edu.

Arizona Afterschool Survey Results Are In!

We are proud to announce the release of the Arizona Afterschool Survey Report, '*Young Minds Keep Learning Even After the School Day Ends*'.

Conducted and compiled by the [Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence](#), [Valley of the Sun United Way](#) and [United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona](#) in partnership with [ASU's Morrison Institute on Public Policy](#), the Report highlights results of a 2011 survey of 681 afterschool and out-of school time program sites in Maricopa and Pima counties.

Contact 602.496.3307 or mmcclintock@azafterschool.org if you or your organization would like a presentation or explanation of the key findings and what they mean for Arizona's youth.

We look forward to working with you to build a meaningful afterschool youth development system for all Arizona's youth!

[Download the Full Report here>>](#)

[Download a Summary of the Report here>>](#)

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in the afterschool community,
join our network on Facebook!



Afterschool in the News

Big Boost for Arizona's Educational System

Arizona's educational system for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, got a big boost today. Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Foundation pledged to back the Arizona STEM Network for another three years. That means after school science and engineering programs, like the one at Joseph Zito Elementary School, can continue. "Kids are working on big important solutions to (alternative) energy, on how electricity gets to your house, on the heat island effect in Maricopa County and what some of the things are if you were going to build a house and how you build it taking into account the heat," explained Darcy Renfro with Arizona STEM Network. A recent report gave Arizona a "D" for its science standards. Organizers hope the Arizona STEM Network can help turn that around.

[Read more from kpho.com](http://kpho.com)>>

Working Healthy Snacks Into After-School Programs

Nutritious snacks don't have to bust budgets, Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) researchers conclude in a new study that analyzed the cost of foods served in YMCA after-school programs in four U.S. cities. While the prices of individual healthy snacks are typically higher than those of their processed-food counterparts, the researchers found simple strategies made healthy snacks more affordable. Also check out [Food & Fun Afterschool](#): Information on the standards and free downloads like these [sample snack menus](#).

[Read more from News at Harvard School for Public Health](#)>>

Audubon: Children Spending Too Much Time Indoors

The [Connecticut Audubon Society](#) says there won't be a next generation of nature lovers if the children of today continue to spend their days indoors. Although there are more threatened bird species in the state than ever, the situation is serious enough for the society to devote its entire "Connecticut State of the Birds 2012" report to the problem of kids not connecting to nature. "We find that children are spending less time outdoors, and their free time is really spent in highly structured activities," said [Robert Martinez](#), president of the Connecticut Audubon Society. "They have very little opportunity for spontaneous interaction with the natural world."

[Read more from CTPost](#)>>

St. Mary's High Junior Named Youth of the Year Youth of the Year Chloe Johnson's outstanding character and determination to help her community have set her on a path to success. The St. Mary's High junior was named Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix on Saturday in front of more than 1,200 at the organization's "Today's Kids, Tomorrow's Stars" dinner at the Arizona Biltmore resort. "Without the lessons I learned at the club and the mentors who've guided me, I wouldn't be who I am today or be so sure of my future," Chloe said.

[Read more from azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com)>>

Record Number of Homeless Children Find 'Home' at Academy

A record number of job losses, home foreclosures, and mounting stress have forced thousands of Arizonans into homelessness. As a result, the National Center on Family Homelessness estimates more

than 53,000 children in our state are without a place to call home. So, where do the Valley's homeless children go? During the hours between 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., at least 320 of them go to Children First Academy on 6th Avenue and Fillmore in downtown Phoenix.

[Read more from KTAR.com>>](#)

Obama Budget Proposal Brings Level Funding, More Challenges for Afterschool

In terms of afterschool programs, the Obama administration largely stayed the course in its Fiscal Year 2013 budget proposal, released last week. The administration recommended level funding next year, at \$1.153 billion, for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), the chief federal funding stream for afterschool. But it again proposed to divert 21st CCLC funding to programs that would extend the school day.

[Read more from the Afterschool Alliance>>](#)

MLB All-Star Goes to Bat for Afterschool on Capitol Hill

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), New York Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira, Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant and other afterschool and physical fitness experts [spoke to congressional staff](#) earlier this month about the link between physical activity and academic success, and the critical role afterschool programs can play in helping kids stay active.

[Read more from the Afterschool Alliance>>](#)

Centennial 'Snake' Students of Santa Fe Elementary Wish State a Happy Birthday With Art

The Ridged-nose Rattler is Arizona's state reptile. Students in Santa Fe and Coyotes Hills art teacher Marleejean Johnson's After School Enrichment Program wanted to commemorate Arizona's Centennial in a huge way, so they proceeded to draw and paint their own representation of the crawly creature. Johnson said students learned about the art elements such as texture and "Sssshape." "Team work, creative problem-solving and a lot of dedication made this possible," Johnson said. The project was done in collaboration with Coyote Hills, Ira Murphy, Kachina, Santa Fe community members and the Santa Fe Centennial snake after-school club. The snake will travel to collaborating schools.

[Read more from the Peoria Times>>](#)

Highland High Robotics Team Prepares to Take on World

Highland High School's Robotics Club members are preparing their robot for a world competition after beating teams from Arizona, New Mexico and California last month. The 10 members, known as the 39th Aero Squadron, or Team 4314, took first place in the Arizona For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Tech Challenge Robotics Championship in Flagstaff. Teams scored points by having the robot flip over a small plastic crate, successfully putting a racquetball in the crate and lifting the crate as high as possible.

[Read more from azcentral.com>>](#)

Field of Dreams: Building Community, One Garden at a Time

If you build it, they will come. The Field of Dreams Garden at the Southminster Presbyterian Church on 1923 E. Broadway Rd. in Phoenix is the latest project from the Tigermountain Foundation. An urban community garden now occupies the vacant outfield of a former baseball diamond and is continuing to expand. "Collectively this is the Fields of Dreams which even extends to the other garden over there and the one down the street," said Samuel Kelsall, a lawyer who volunteers with the [Tigermountain Foundation](#) in his free time.

[Read more from Mother Nature Network>>](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[Post it here>>](#)

MentorKids USA

Mentor Coordinator

[Read more>>](#)

Valley of the Sun YMCA

Building Futures Mentoring Program Childcare

[Read more>>](#)

International School of Arizona

Extended Care Program Supervisor

[Read more>>](#)

The Scottsdale/PV YMCA

After School Counselor

[Read more>>](#)

Catalina Foothills Community Schools

Community Schools Program Coordinator

[Read more>>](#)

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

Funding Opportunities

***New opportunities in red**

Opal Apple Grants

Deadline: March 5, 2012

Joining forces Opal Apple and Katie's Krops are thrilled to be able to offer grants to kids ages 9-16 to start vegetable gardens where the bounty is donated to individuals in need. Grant winners will receive materials to start a vegetable garden & will be awarded a gift card to a garden center in their area (up to \$400), support from Katie's Krops, and a digital camera to document the garden and the harvest.

Applications for all types of vegetable gardens, such as a container garden if you live in a city, or a vegetable garden located in your neighborhood or at your school, will be considered. **Groups of kids such as classes or youth groups may apply but the applicants must fall into the age requirements.**

All applications must be filled out completely and signed by a parent or legal guardian. For questions contact Katie Stagliano Katie@KatiesKrops.com; 843.327.3366.

[More information>>](#)

Change the World Challenge

Deadline: March 15, 2012

The *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge* encourages youth to solve environmental problems through project-based learning. Groups of youth and teachers/mentors are challenged to come up with solutions and innovations in areas such as food waste-to-energy, community-scale battery recycling, phantom-power load reduction, systematic behavior change, erosion control and more. The contest is for youth and teacher/mentors groups in three categories: elementary school (grades K to 5); middle school (grades 6 to 8); and high school (grades 9 to 12). Prizes vary and are in the form of scholarships, savings bonds, school grants, adventure trips and a chance to present their idea at the United Nations.

[More information>>](#)

AZ Commission on the Arts

FY2013 Grant Guides Now Available

Deadline: March 15, 2012

If you are currently a recipient of grant funding from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, or are interested in applying for the first time, please visit www.azarts.gov/grants to find information about grant categories, eligibility and application requirements. Guidelines are now available for applying to the 2012-2013, fiscal year 2013 cycle of grants for organizations and schools. Applicants are strongly encouraged to begin preparing application narratives and materials now, using the [Guide to Grants](#) documents. The Electronic Grants Online Resource or EGOR - the online system used by applicants for grant application submission - will open in late January 2012.

[More information>>](#)

Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge

Deadline: March 15, 2012

Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, National Science Teachers Association, and College Board have partnered to provide funding to programs that encourage students to solve environmental problems through project-based learning. Eligible programs serve children in grades K-12.

[More information>>](#)

Ashoka Changemakers: Activating Empathy

Deadline: March 30, 2012

Activating Empathy is a global collaborative competition to find the best ideas, programs, and learning-models from around the world that: encourage social and emotional development, unlock new ways of viewing problems, open the door to a new world of potential solutions, address bullying or aggression in ways that advance understanding of others' perspectives, promote community diversity and a respect for differences, and champion children as real-world problem solvers rather than simply bystanders. More than \$70,000 in-cash and in-kind prizes are available through the competition. **Prepare to Enter or Nominate** an individual, organization, or partnership with a solution online starting now. **For more information, please see the [Guidelines and Criteria](#) and [Prizes page](#)**

Youth Baseball & Softball Program Funding

Deadline: April 1, 2012

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund, part of Major League Baseball, awards on a quarterly basis after a thorough and selective application process. The application evaluation process takes three-to-six months, which depends upon the date that the letter of inquiry is received. This funding is intended to provide funding for incremental programming and facilities for youth baseball and softball programs, not for normal operating expenses or as a substitute for existing funding or fund-raising activities. The program generally considers projects that include capital expenditures for youth baseball and softball programs such as baseball/softball equipment and uniforms, basic baseball/softball field renovations and construction (e.g. infield mix, sod/seeding, bases, dugouts, fencing, field lighting, irrigation system, grading, etc.)

[More information>>](#)

Active Schools Acceleration Project

Deadline: April 2, 2012

ChildObesity180 and Partnership for a Healthier America will provide grants of up to \$100,000 to school-based programs and technological innovations that promote physical activity for children.

[More information>>](#)

Touching Lives Through Theatre™ Grants

Deadline: April 1, 2012

Pioneer Drama Service is proud to offer Touching Lives Through Theatre™ Grants available for the upcoming 2012-13 school year. Because we believe so strongly in the power of theatre to make a difference in a student's life, we are awarding a total of \$5000 of grants in the form of Pioneer Drama credit to qualifying middle and high schools.

[More information>>](#)

21st Century Community Learning Grant RFP Announcement

Deadline: May 7, 2012

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant funding is available for academic out-of-school time programs through the Arizona Department of Education. The grant provides funding for students to receive academic enrichment classes and opportunities in core academic areas such as reading, writing and math. Eligible organizations include any public or private organization that serves students who attend schools where at least 40% of the students qualify for free/reduced meals. Any organization that is not a school must partner with the school serving the students targeted for assistance. The application will be available on March 5th on the ADE Grant Management Enterprise under Fund Alerts.

[More information>>](#)

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Deadline: May 31, 2012

The mission of the Captain Planet Foundation is to fund and support hands-on, environmental projects for children and youths. Through environmental education, they believe that children can achieve a better understanding and appreciation for the world in which they live. Generally, the range of grants awarded by the Foundation is \$250 - \$2,500 for innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities.

[More information>>](#)

Tony Hawk Foundation Skatepark Grants

Deadline: July 2, 2012

The Tony Hawk Foundation provides grants of \$1,000 to \$25,000 to encourage and facilitate the design, development, construction, and operation of high-quality public skateparks serving at-risk youth in low-income areas across the United States. 501(c)(3) public charity or a state or local agency (including public school systems or public projects) are eligible.

[More information>>](#)

Navy and Marine Corps STEM Education Grants

Deadline: September 20, 2012

U.S. Department of Defense will give out multiple grants of \$200,000 to city or township governments, independent school districts, public institutions of higher education, tribal organizations, nonprofits, for-profits, small businesses to foster an interest in, knowledge of and study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics nationwide to ensure an educated and well-prepared naval and national STEM workforce by engaging students in STEM-related hands-on learning activities with Naval relevance.

[More information>>](#)

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

Awards, Contests & Fellowships

Food Engineering Essay Contest

Deadline: March 1, 2012

Have children and youth think about food in a different way by entering the EngineerGirl! Food Engineering Essay Contest. The contest is open to boys and girls and essays are accepted in three categories. For children in 3rd-5th grade, entrants submit an essay of no more than 500 words explaining how a food, such as apple sauce, peanut butter or spaghetti sauce, is produced and how engineers are a part of the process. For children in 6th-8th grade, the essay can be no more than 750 words and must meet the 3rd-5th grade requirements and also explain how a technology is important to the production and how it works. For 9th-12th graders, the essay can be no more than 1,500 words. Entrants in this category must meet the 6th-8th grade requirements and also include how an engineer contributed to the design of the technology and how engineers are improving the technology.

[Click here to see the list of foods for essay topics, complete rules and prize list>>](#)

National Geographic Student Expeditions Scholarships

Deadline: March 1, 2012

This Scholarship Program provides financial support to high school students who are seeking educational summer experiences they otherwise could not afford. The program seeks to provide opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds and to enhance the group dynamic and learning opportunities for everyone involved.

Eligibility: high school students with financial need from anywhere in the world who wish to take part in summer travel and exploration programs

Amount: Varies

Contact: [Click Here](#)

Mantis Awards for Community and Youth Gardens

Deadline: March 1, 2012

Mantis supports charitable and educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life of youth. Twenty-five programs will receive a Mantis Tiller/Cultivator grant.

[More information>>](#)

Young Naturalist Awards Essay Contest

Deadline: March 9, 2012

The American Museum of Natural History is sponsoring an essay contest for students in 7th- through 12th grades. The Young Naturalist Awards is a research-based science competition in which entrants select a project and engage in scientific inquiry. An essay that explains the project investigated must then be submitted. Essays submitted by 7th- and 8th-graders must be 500 to 2,000 words. For 9th- and 10th-graders, essays must be 750 to 2,500 words. For 11th- and 12th-graders, essays must be 1,000 to 3,000 words. Cash prizes will be awarded to 12 winners, two for each grade level. Essays can be submitted by mail or online.

[More information>>](#)

Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program

Deadline: March 9, 2012

Has your message of community service and volunteering resonated with a young boy or girl in your program? If so, consider nominating him or her for Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program.

Among the requirements:

- Nominees must be between the ages of 6 and 18, but not a high school graduate as of March 15. Nominees must be a legal U.S. resident of a state in which a Kohl's store is located.
- Nominees' volunteer actions must be described in detail and should document efforts above and beyond what is expected for a child of his or her age.
- The volunteer efforts must have occurred in the past year. [More information>>](#)

Doodle 4 Google

Deadline: March 23, 2012

"If I could travel in time, I'd visit..." Youth in grades K-12 are invited to enter Google's annual art contest. Five national finalists will be flown to New York for the awards ceremony and win a \$5,000 college scholarship. One winner will take the big prize -- \$30,000 for college, a \$50,000 technology grant for his or her school, and the winning art will be featured on Google's home page.

[More information>>](#)

Call for Nominations: Hon Kachina Volunteer Awards

Deadline: March 30, 2012

The Hon Kachina Council seek nominations year-round for recipients of the Hon Kachina Volunteer Awards - Arizona's Most Prestigious Celebration of Volunteerism. You can help the Hon Kachina Council honor seven of Arizona's most deserving volunteers by nominating a volunteer, high school age or older, who has dedicated time, talent and passion to a variety of causes. In addition to recognition at the 2012 Awards event and extensive statewide publicity, each winner will receive a one-of-a-kind hand carved Hon Kachina doll and a cash award for their nonprofit organization. Nominations are being accepted at the Hon Kachina Council's website: www.honkachina.org.

College Scholarship Opportunity

Deadline: March 30, 2012

The Tucson Hispanic Chamber Foundation Announces college scholarships to Hispanic High School Seniors! "Mi Exito" Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation Scholarships are available to students who will be attending any accredited university, college or vocational/trade school located in the Southern Arizona (ex. University of Arizona, Pima Community College, Cochise Community College). Scholarships start at \$1,000 based on financial need. Winners will be presented to the membership of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber at a luncheon on June 21st.

[More information>>](#)

Trend Micro's 2012 *What's Your Story* video contest

Deadline: April 3, 2012

Unleash the videographer in your program's youth by having them enter Trend Micro's 2012 What's Your Story video contest. Entrants must create and upload an original video, no longer than two minutes, that addresses one of three issues: taking action against bullying; keeping a good reputation online; or being cell smart. The videos can be created in any style - a serious confessional, an educational lesson or a funny re-enactment. One \$10,000 grand prize and six \$500 secondary prizes will be awarded. The contest is open to residents of the United States and Canada (excluding Quebec) who are 13 and older.

[More information on the categories and how to register>>](#)

Trainings & Conferences

Register Today!
High Energy Summer Programs

Join Dr. Gale Gorke of Kids Kan, Inc. and your afterschool and youth development peers for a comprehensive training on *High Energy Summer Programs!*

Participants will engage in a dialogue about what makes a high-energy summer program and **learn strategies to maintain enthusiasm among staff and youth all summer long.**

Take away tools and activities to minimize learning losses over the summer by infusing academic principles in high-energy activities.

All participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

(All workshops are from 9 AM - Noon)

Tuesday, April 10 in Flagstaff
Wednesday, April 11 in Phoenix
Thursday, April 12 in Tucson
[Register online here>>](#)

Questions?

602.496.3308 or info@azafterschool.org

USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Webinars

Hunger and poor nutrition are among the biggest obstacles to student success, stunting not only children's educational development, but also making them more likely to miss school days due to sickness and other health issues. One of the many ways afterschool providers can fight hunger, especially among children, is through the federal Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The program provides funding to feed low-income children ages 18 and under when school is not in session.

[Visit the USDA's SFSP webpage for a list of upcoming webinar dates>>](#)

[Click for a list of state food nutrition contacts>>](#)

Youth and Peace Conference

March 3, 2012 @ 9:30AM-4:30PM

Alta Vista High School

5040 S. Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ 85706

Featuring a full day of workshops, performances, music, and artwork focused on ending bullying, building healthy relationships, and creating the beloved community.

Management & Administration Workshop: Accessing Professional Development Funds for your Program Staff

Thursday, March 8, 2012 @ 7:00PM - 8:30PM

Rio Salado Conference Center, Tempe

Designed specifically for child care administration and owners, participants will learn about the abundant resources currently available in Maricopa County to fund professional development/training requirements for early childhood staff. Rio Salado College's Early Childhood Education Consultants will provide information on how your program can access a variety of resources to meet the training/education requirements of the Arizona Department of Health Service Child Care Licensure, Arizona Department of Economic Security Child Care Administration and the First Things First Quality First Rating System. Please join us for this free workshop and earn 1.5 clock hours in management and administration towards the annual six hours needed by ADHS. To register, contact 480-517-8120 or early.childhood@riosalado.edu.

Respectful Communication

March 15, 2012 @ 6:00-8:00PM

White Mountain Regional Medical Center, 118 S. White Mountain Ave. Springerville, AZ

To establish and maintain a good working relationship, parents, teachers, and children need to develop good communication with each other. This workshop will look at appropriate communication and conversation skills, and the elements of effective communication. Program administration, planning, development, or management.

Register: 866-9TRAIN9 or projectmetoo@blake.easterseals.com

Showcasing Your Program Through Online Web Tools

Saturday, March 17, 2012 @ 9:00AM - 11:00AM

Market your early childhood program using online web tools free and easy. Bring digital photos with you to help promote the wonderful work going on in your center. Showcase the learning and opportunities that you provide for children within each age group you serve. Even if you aren't feeling very creative, digital templates will help tell your story. This seminar will focus on the following objectives:

- * Create a digital online scrapbook or photo album showcasing the benefits of your program
- * Learn the basics to begin a Google site
- * Begin to gather the success stories to share about your program within the webpage
- * Understand the difference between a webpage and a blog

A Continued Education Certificate (CEU) is available for participants attending this seminar. The CEU certificate can be used to meet ADHS, DES and CDA National Credentialing training requirements.

[More information>>](#)

Why Inclusion? Planning for Children with Special Needs

March 21, 2012 @ 7:00-9:00PM

Bright Futures, 19 E. Beech St., Cottonwood, AZ

Research shows that everyone can benefit when children with special needs are included in community programs. This session will discuss these benefits and what to consider when enrolling a child with special needs.

Register: 866-9TRAIN9 or projectmetoo@blake.easterseals.com

Everybody Wins- Conflict Resolution Strategies for School Age Programs

March 24, 2012 @ 8:00-10:00PM

Flagstaff Federated Church, 400 W. Aspen Ave. Flagstaff, AZ

Children mirror what adults around them do. This is one of the basic ways children learn what is okay and not okay. If we want children to handle conflicts constructively and nonviolently then we need to take a look at how we handle conflict. This workshop presents handling conflicts in a positive way. Come and start walking the talk. Child Growth and Development; child guidance and methods of discipline.

Register: 866-9TRAIN9 or projectmetoo@blake.easterseals.com

What's In My Back Pocket?

Activities for School Age Youth

March 24, 2012 @ 10:15AM-12:15PM

Flagstaff Federated Church, 400 W. Aspen Ave. Flagstaff, AZ

Children need to have an understanding of the importance of waste and recycling. This workshop will provide participants with a clear understanding of the process and teach them ways to share this knowledge with school age children in their care. Activities will take into consideration all of the developmental domains with a fun/exciting recycling approach. Child Growth and Development; developmentally appropriate activities.

Register: 866-9TRAIN9 or projectmetoo@blake.easterseals.com

APEX Great Seminars

Rio Salado College, in collaboration with KAET/ASSET (Arizona State University), is initiating a coaching model for early childhood professional development.

These seminars will take place once a month and are being offered as professional development opportunities for early care and education professionals. Each Seminar has been designed to provide participants with information, knowledge and skills that will enhance their practice in the field of early care and education. *Participants will receive a Continued Education Certificate (CEU) for attending each seminar. The CEU certificate can be used to meet ADHS, DES and CDA National Credentialing training requirements.*

April 21st, 8:30AM-4:30PM: [The Arizona Directors Conference](#)

April 21st & 28th, 9:00AM-11:00AM: [PBS KIDS Super WHY! Learning Adventure Tool Kit](#)

May 19th, 8:30AM-4:00PM: [The Arizona Family Child Care Conference](#)

Boost Conference

April 25-28, 2012, Palm Springs, CA

The BOOST Conference, presented by Boost Collaborative, is one of the nation's largest, most recognized and comprehensive conferences for afterschool and out-of-school time professionals. Set in a retreat-like atmosphere, this extraordinary event will rejuvenate your passion and boost your direction for quality programming. Register today for an invigorating blend of:

- * Keynote presentations by Milton Chen & Sir Ken Robinson
- * Networking and teambuilding opportunities
- * Exceptional workshop presenters to learn and grow with and the latest trends and research in out-of-school time programming
- * In depth learning sessions through our 1-day Pre-Conference Academy
- * Opportunities for targeted conversations and learning through Inspiration Stations
- * Legacy Summit sessions to support working with older youth
- * Connections with over 125 Exhibitors sharing the newest resources, products and services to enhance your programs
- * Options to earn college credits and CEU's
- * All-inclusive opportunities to experience guest speakers, authors, special events, and entertainment that will inspire you to create change
- * Healthy meals and plenty of sunshine in beautiful Palm Springs, California

[Details and Registration here>>](#)

NIOST Summer Seminars 2012

July 23-27, 2012, Boston, MA

The National Institute for Out-of-School Time - NIOST -- (www.niost.org) has an exciting lineup for the 2012 Summer Seminars! Energize your leadership skills and network with other youth-serving professionals in the OST industry! Find the training seminar that is right for you... [APAS \(Afterschool Program Assessment System\)](#) for those interested in program self-assessment, [OST Systems-Building in a New Age of Education Reform](#) for those involved in city or regional collaboration, [Using Data for Program Improvement and Reaching Positive Outcomes](#) for those already performing program self-assessments, [HOST - Promoting Healthy Active Out-of-School Time](#) to introduce the new national standards into your program, or Delve deeper into your leadership skills in our new [Session 3 - The Courage to Lead: A Retreat for Personal Renewal](#), a one-day retreat at the beautiful Wellesley College campus.

[More information here>>](#)

Community Events

MY Fest '12

Sunday, March 25, 2012 @ Tempe Beach Park, 12:00-5:00PM

MY Fest is a music, art, entertainment and youth involvement festival hosted by MY LIFE (Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment) to raise awareness about mental health, substance abuse, foster care and other issues facing youth and young adults. MY Fest '12 will feature live music, a break dancing stage and crew competition, entertainers, artists, food, youth groups, and a variety of youth and family-based organizations offering information, resources and services. MY Fest '11 drew a crowd of nearly 7,000 people and featured 80 youth and family serving community and social service organizations. MY Fest '12 will no doubt be even bigger and better than ever before! [See video highlights from a previous MY Fest!](#)

MY LIFE is also proud to offer exhibitor space for MY Fest '12 to organizations that provide youth and family-based services or resources. There is no charge for exhibitor space. Please see the [exhibitor application](#) for more details.

Arizona SciTech Festival

January - March 2012

The Arizona SciTech Festival showcases Arizona as a national leader in science, technology and innovation through a series of events taking place in January - March 2012. Spearheaded by the [Arizona Technology Council Foundation](#) in partnership with [Arizona State University](#) and [Arizona Science Center](#), the Arizona SciTech Festival is a grassroots collaboration of over 200 organizations in industry, academia, arts, community and K-12, geared to excite and inform Arizonans ages three to 103 about how science, technology and innovation will drive our state for the next 100 years. Take a look at more than 200 statewide events featuring hands-on activities and workshops, conversations and debates, exhibitions, concerts, guided walks and tours in the areas of science, technology and innovation online at: www.azscitechfest.org.

Global Youth Service Day

April 20-22, 2012

The Arizona Governor's Youth Commission invites youth groups across the state to join together to conduct service projects in the focus area of education, an area critical to Arizona's future, *to demonstrate the power* and value of the collective impact of Arizona's youth. Please email registration by Wednesday, February 8, 2012 to: Carla Friedman at gyc@az.gov.

Submit Your Proposal for the HandsOn Greater Phoenix's 19th Annual Serve A Thon

Saturday April 28, 2012

The HandsOn Greater Phoenix Serve A Thon brings together 1500 corporate, civic and individual volunteers for a day of hands-on community service projects at locations across the Valley. Working in partnership nonprofit organizations, under-resourced neighborhoods and schools, teams of volunteers will clean up neighborhoods, brighten classrooms, paint murals, revitalize homeless and domestic violence shelters, plant gardens and much more! The effort will provide 15,000 hours of service and leave a lasting mark on the community and those in need.

This is the opportunity of a lifetime to leverage resources and volunteers. HandsOn will do a complete site visit with your organization, identify needed supplies and resources for the projects, recruit the volunteers and oversee the project. **Less than 35** projects will be chosen for this event!

[Submit your proposal here](#), email proposals to Todd Byard Todd@handsonphoenix.org or fax to 602-973-9233. Contact HandsOn Greater Phoenix at 602-973-2212 if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Resources, Research & Reports

Resources Available to Help Students Access Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides funding to local governments, nonprofits and other community organizations and institutions to make sure that low-income children up to age 18 receive meals when school is out of session for the summer. The program is underutilized - one out of seven children who receive school lunch during the regular school year take advantage of free summer meals, according to the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). Many SFSP sites are able to use the federal meal reimbursements to help free up funding that can then be spent on providing enrichment and recreation activities in conjunction with the meals. FRAC and the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families, with funding from the ConAgra Foods Foundation, are working together to help afterschool providers connect their youth to SFSP and other nutrition programs. USDA is offering SFSP webinars, and interested sponsors and volunteers can find more information and register at the [SFSP webinar page](#). Families interested in finding SFSP sites in their area can call either 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE. Organizations interested in sponsoring sites can find more information on USDA's [SFSP website](#).

[Read more from the National League of Cities>>](#)

Congress for Kids

If your program site has access to the Internet, let the kids learn about the federal government with interactive games at [Congress for Kids](#). Designed for fourth- through 12th-graders, the site features chapters on democracy, the Constitution, the three branches of government, elections and citizenship. In addition, there are quizzes, book recommendations and links to audio files, as well as opportunities to learn words and skills. Congress for Kids is part of the Dirksen Congressional Center and is one of eight civics sites the center provides.

[More information about the Dirksen Center>>](#)

The Impact of a 3-Year After-School Obesity Prevention Program in Elementary School Children

Children tend to be sedentary during the after-school hours, and this has deleterious effects on their health. Researchers found that an after-school physical activity (PA) program was effective in reducing adiposity and improving cardio respiratory fitness (CRF) in 3rd grade children from 18 elementary schools in the southeastern United States. The clearest beneficial effects were seen for those youth who attended the sessions at least 3 days/week. However, the favorable effects on % body fat and CRF were lost over the summer. Thus, it is critical to incorporate strategies that attract and retain the children to receive an adequate dose of PA year-round.

[Download the report here>>](#)

Make and Takes

Looking for fun, kids crafts ideas? This website has all kinds of fun crafts, projects, tips, and activities for kids. New content is posted weekly. Everything posted is something to "make and take". Whether it's a holiday craft for kids, an easy way to spruce up your room decor, baking a delicious dessert, or a fun product giveaway, you'll be able to make or take something. Along with content featured from regular contributors, M&T also share guest posts and quick features from YOU as you've all got something great to make and take too!

[Read more>>](#)

Featured Activity!

Black Magic (Color Chromatography)

Grades: 2-5

Time: 15min

Objective: With a paper towel, a black marker, and a cup of water, discover the secret colors hidden in black ink. Explore capillary action--how the water moves up the paper-- and chromatography--how different elements of the ink are carried along at different rates, allowing you to see that black ink is actually made up of many different colors.

What Do I Need?

- * absorbent paper (paper towel or coffee filter)
- * scissors
- * black marker (water-based)
- * water
- * cup or mug

What Do I Do?

1. Cut a strip of the paper towel or coffee filter. Make it about 2 inches (5 cm) wide and 5 to 6 inches (13 - 15 cm) long.
2. With the black marker, draw a line across the strip, 1 to 2 inches (2 - 5 cm) up from and parallel to the bottom.
3. Put some water in the cup - enough to cover the bottom.
4. Place one end of the paper strip (the one with the black mark closest to that end) in the cup, then fold the other end of the strip over the cup's edge so the strip doesn't fall in. Make sure the bottom of the strip is in the water, but that the black mark is not in the water.
5. Watch as the water flows up the paper. When it reaches the black line, you'll start to see some different colors moving up the paper strip.
6. Leave the paper in the water until the colors go all the way to the top edge. How many colors can you see?
7. If you have another black marker, draw a line on a clean, dry coffee filter or paper towel. Put the paper in some fresh water. Does this marker make colors different from the first one?

What's Going On?

How does Color Chromatography work?

Why do some black inks separate into many colors on a wet coffee filter?

Why does mixing many colors of ink make black?

[Find out here>>](#)

Source: *Exploratorium Afterschool Activities*:

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/afterschool/activities/index.php>



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