



Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence

@fterschool advisor - September 17, 2012

Announcements from the Center

STEM Grant Recipients Announced

Congratulations to this year's STEM grant recipients who were chosen from a large and impressive pool of grant applications.

This year's grantees are:

Ira A. Murphy School

Afterschool "All-Stars" Program
Peoria, AZ

Boys & Girls Club of Northern Arizona

Computer 360 Start to Finish, Introduction to Computer Drafting and Design
Cottonwood, AZ

Gilbert Public Schools, VIK Club

Incorporating Digital Photography into six sites
Gilbert, AZ

Girls Scouts of Southern Arizona

Launch of Gamma Sigma Club
Tucson, AZ

JAG Afterschool Program

Jobs for Arizona's Graduates
Gila Bend, LaJoya, Sierra Linda, Tolleson and Westview High Schools

Magnet Traditional School

Lego Robotic Club
Phoenix, AZ

Northland Preparatory

Spartans Science Club
Flagstaff, AZ

SPOT 127

KJZZ's Youth Media Center
Phoenix, AZ

Tucson Parks & Rec KIDCO Program

Laser & Musical Show Mobile Lab
Tucson, AZ

It was impressive to see all the exciting STEM related projects being incorporated into afterschool programs for children and youth of all ages. AzCASE particularly wants to thank Cox Communications for its support of the mini-grant program this year which allowed us to increase the number of grants awarded.



Choose Your Own Afterschool Adventure: Just-Released Workshop Lineup Offers Something for Everyone!

The workshop lineup for the 2012 conference is now available [online](#), and this year offers more specialized options than ever before. We have some fan favorites joining a variety of new faces, offering something for everyone in Arizona afterschool!

A few highlights from the just-released line up:

- **Junior high** and **administrator** tracks join diverse **general** track offerings, so whether you're looking for ideas on how to start a successful program for tweens, ways to better integrate your program with the school community, or math and literacy strategies you can use with kids the next day, you'll find it at the 2012 Statewide Afterschool Conference.
- **Dr. Gale Gorke** is back again this year for three high-energy workshops on special needs in afterschool, respecting culture and diversity, and afterschool design and implementation. Anyone who heard her keynote at last year's conference or attended one of her workshops around the state in the last year can attest to how valuable her workshops are, in addition to what a great time they are!
- Get trained to be a physical fitness leader by nationally-recognized afterschool fitness advocate and this year's keynote speaker **Normandie Nigh**, and learn a range of other health activities you can take back to your program the next day with kids in physical health sessions.

On top of workshops specialized to meet your program's unique needs, you'll get to mingle with 600 afterschool staff and administrators from around the state, find your next great vendor in the exhibit hall, and see your colleagues honored at the Awards of Excellence Luncheon!

[Register Now for the 2012 AZ Afterschool Conference!](#)

Healthy Minds.
Healthy Bodies.
Healthy Youth **Afterschool.**

The 20th Annual
Arizona Statewide
Afterschool Conference &
Awards of Excellence Luncheon

Saturday, November 3, 2012
8 am - 3:30 pm
Phoenix Convention Center, West Building

Conference Registration

Registration is \$90/person
OR \$85/person for groups of 10 or more

Register now!>>

Additional conference details can be found
on the main [conference page here>>](#)

Questions?

602.496.3308 or info@azafterschool.org

Deadline is Monday, October 1st!

NEW AZ Afterschool Directory Popular with Parents and Programs

The BIGGER, BETTER, and MORE comprehensive NEW AZ Afterschool Directory has been in the news, reaching parents across Arizona! Developed in partnership between the [Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence](#) and the [Valley of the Sun United Way](#), the AZ Afterschool Directory is the only statewide, bilingual centralized database of organized afterschool and summer programs, and now is your chance to make sure your program is included as parents use it to find options for the new year!

If your program is not yet listed in the directory for families to find, we ask that you create a login, enter the relevant data for each of your program sites, and respond to all questions so we can have data critical for our work with policymakers. Once your data has been entered or updated, AzCASE will be notified and we will give the approval needed for your data to be "live" on the site.

It is important that you **act quickly** to either review or enter your program data because we are aggressively marketing the directory to families so they have the benefit of the directory as the school year gets started. This is a brand new application, so if you encounter any difficulty inputting your data, please email us at info@azafterschool.org or call us at 602.496.3308. You can also access a video tutorial on the provider login page.

VISIT THE DIRECTORY HERE

Select 'Provider Login' to create your new account!

Contact AzCASE with questions at
602.496.3308 or info@azafterschool.org.



Reach the Afterschool Audience with an Exhibit or Workshop at the 2012 Afterschool Conference!

Saturday, November 3rd, 2012
Phoenix Convention Center

EXHIBITS & ADS

Showcase your programs, field trips & services for over 600 afterschool staff that serve youth ages 5-17!

[Review Exhibit & Advertisement Opportunities>>](#)

Deadline is Friday, September 21, 2012

One Month Left to Plan for Lights on Afterschool!

Lights On Afterschool is a national celebration that gives local programs the perfect opportunity to tell your story and show off the incredible work you are doing with the children in your program. This year's national celebration is **Thursday, October 18** but we encourage you to plan your local festivities for any day that week that works best for you.

Knowing that you are all extremely busy, we encourage you to keep it simple. We highly recommend that you use this year's Lights On Afterschool as an excuse to invite local policymakers and decision makers to visit and see the benefits of afterschool programming.

Invite who you think should know about your program but sadly knows the least about what you're doing. It might be the administrators at your school, your mayor and city council, or your state or federal legislator. Simply extend an invitation for them to come visit stressing the impact that quality afterschool programming has on student engagement and the direct link between student engagement and student success.

Get started today!

1. Check out the Afterschool Alliance's [Event Planning Kit](#) for event resource, media tips, and more.
2. [Register your event](#) to make sure others can find it. You'll also get 10 free posters, planning tips, and updates.



For more information about Lights on Afterschool, see [Afterschool Alliance's information here>>](#)

Integrating the Common Core into Afterschool Programming

The expansion of the Common Core State Standards in education opens new doors for out-of-school time (OST) providers to align their work with schools. The Common Core is emerging amid growing calls for expanded learning opportunities and collective action among schools and community partners. This gives the OST field a window to assert itself as a necessary part of children's development and education. The goal need not be to replicate the core work of schools, but rather to complement, support and expand it.

An **issue brief** from the Forum for Youth Investment describes the Common Core, shares examples of OST programs and systems responding, and recommends how the OST field might think about alignment opportunities.

[Read the brief here>>](#)

Curious what the common core looks like? **Sample assessment items** for the PARCC Assessment, which will be used to assess students under the Common Core standards, were just released.

[See sample math and reading questions>>](#)

Edutopia offers information about the Common Core and how it's being implemented across the country.

[See the list of resources here>>](#)

Making Afterschool an Election Issue in 2012

Be an informed voter!

Children's Action Alliance has compiled an analysis of [Who's for Kids and Who's Just Kidding](#). View this legislative report card so you can see how your legislators voted regarding issues affecting children and families.

Redistricting changed the boundaries and makeup of each of Arizona's 30 legislative districts. Find information on student achievement and conditions for children and families in your redrawn district in Children's Action Alliance's [2012 Legislative District Factsheets](#).

Be an advocate for afterschool!

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

There are still three weeks left for you to register to vote in the General Election on Tuesday, November 6. In a democracy, it is important that each of us be active and involved citizens. [Register now to vote in Arizona>>](#)

Important Dates & Deadlines

[General Election>>](#)

October 8, 2012 General Election Voter Registration Deadline

November 6, 2012 General Election

Scottsdale Residents: Read City Council and Mayoral Candidate's Views on Afterschool!

AzCASE contacted all candidates running for mayor or city council seats in Scottsdale. Check the left hand news section of our [home page](#) for the responses, to see where the responding candidates fall on important afterschool issues.

More information

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

A World Class Education for Every Arizona Student



Arizona's long-term economic prosperity and our individual quality of life depend on our ability to deliver a world-class education for all students.

Join Expect More Arizona's Vote 4 Education campaign to help every Arizona student succeed in college,

career and in life. Statewide and nonpartisan, Expect More Arizona is bringing Arizonans together to support a world-class education for all students. Join us as we make education the most important issue this election and beyond.

Here are 4 easy ways that you can get involved:

[Sign Up](#) - Join the Expect More Arizona movement.

[Study Up](#) - Learn more about education issues in this year's election so you can make an informed vote.

[Speak Up](#) - Raise your voice about your support of Vote 4 Education.

[Show Up](#) - Show up at the polls on November 6th or mail in your ballot.

Visit ExpectMoreArizona.org to learn more about Vote 4 Education and how you can get involved!

Vote 4 Education is paid for by Expect More Arizona PAC - Yes on 118 and 204. Major funding provided by Expect More Arizona. This political committee has not accepted any public funds

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>>](#)

Turn Youth into Citizen Scientists!



It's [well-proven](#) that more time spent outside leads to better health outcomes for both adults and kids. Looking for an excuse to get more time outside and add a STEM component to your program? The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology needs citizen scientists to join their bird observation project. Volunteers observe birds in their neighborhood and submit the data to Cornell scientists, making this a great - and free - opportunity to get kids outside and into science!

[Find out more and download the free Urban Birds kit here>>](#)

Beat the Heat! Extreme Heat Safety in Afterschool

Youth and afterschool providers should be educated about heat illness prevention in order to lower the number of heat-related illnesses and to promote a healthy environment. Watch this [Heat Illness Prevention School video>>](#)

Resources for Health

Indoor Activity and Play Booklet for Youth

Don't let the summer heat prevent the youth in your program from being active! This booklet provides several fun and interactive games to play indoors or in limited space.

[Promoting Lifetime Activity for Youth Game Book>>](#)

Stay Cool. Stay Hydrated. Stay Informed.

Summer is in full swing! Dehydration, left untreated, can lead to heat cramps, heat exhaustion and very serious heat stroke. Watch kids closely for signs of dehydration, including fatigue, dry lips and tongue, low energy, grayish skin, and lack of tears. Children's body temperature rises faster than adults, so it is essential that they get plenty of fluids to keep them cool-especially when it's hot and humid!

[What you can do to keep youth hydrated>>](#)

Would you recognize heat illness?

Learn what heat illness is, warning signs and symptoms, treatment options, return to play considerations and prevention strategies in order to keep your program safe from the effects of extreme heat.

[Tips for preventing Heat Illness>>](#)

Take the [Heat Related Illness Prevention Training Course](#)

Health Funding Opportunities

UnitedHealth HEROES grants

Deadline: October 15, 2012

Youth Service America and UnitedHealthcare are inviting schools and other community-based nonprofit organizations to "step into service" by applying for UnitedHealth HEROES grants. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for youth-led service-learning projects that aim to combat childhood obesity through walking, running, or hiking. Project proposals must include an activity element where young people can count their steps, as well as a service component that provides direct service, enables advocacy on behalf of a cause, or features youth philanthropy.

[More information>>](#)

Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation 2012-13 Community Grants Program

Deadline: November 15, 2012

Improving oral health for communities and residents of Arizona, particularly the underserved and uninsured, is the mission of the Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation. Since 1997, the Foundation has focused resources across the state

promoting oral health and preventing dental disease in children and youth through age 18. Organizations may apply for grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 to support oral health promotion and dental disease prevention programs serving children and youth (this includes programs serving pregnant mothers and children and youth through age 18).

Technical Assistance workshops will be held at six sites across the state from 9/6-10/1.

[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 Amount: Award amounts vary

[More information>>](#)

The Wal-Mart Foundation

Deadline: Rolling

The Wal-Mart Foundation supports programs and initiatives addressing education, workforce development, economic sustainability, and health and wellness. For health and wellness in particular, the Foundation looks to promote healthy lifestyles and behaviors. Organizations that meet the eligibility requirements for this program can request an application at their local Wal-Mart or Sam's Club. Award Amount: \$250 - \$5,000

[More information>>](#)

SPARK 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>>](#)

Conferences, Trainings & Seminars

Garden Planning Webinar

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

10 -11 am or 1 - 2 pm

Get help planning an outdoor learning garden for children of all ages with a free Webinar from the National Wildlife Federation. The Webinar will show how adults and children can work together to plan and create a learning garden and how to use and maintain it throughout the year.

[More information>>](#)

20th Annual AZ Afterschool Conference

Healthy Minds.

Healthy Bodies.

Healthy Youth Afterschool.

Saturday, November 3, 2012

8 am - 3:30 pm

Phoenix Convention Center,

West Building

[More information>>](#)

Questions?

602.496.3308, info@azafterschool.org

6th Annual Children's Obesity Conference

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix

This years' conference will address topics related to "Mental Health and Childhood Obesity: An Exploration of the Role of Bullying, Self Esteem and Health Among Children and Families." Objectives include:

- Promote community health partnerships and best practices through identifying a variety of funding mechanisms and strategies for new and existing programs.

- Offer resources to increasing access to information and services around children's health and nutrition.

- Define how increasing social issues such as bullying and mental health issues impact childhood obesity for young children and families.

- Identify public health strategies that target obesity through each generation and that involves family and community at all levels.

- Increase strategies and promoting policies that make healthy choices and healthy behaviors simple and accessible for children and families.

[More information>>](#)

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in the afterschool community,
join our network on Facebook!



Afterschool in the News

Arts Education Afterschool Keeps Kids From Dropping Out

Arts integration has been getting some buzz in the education media this fall. A recent [profile](#) of one school in Maryland that took the leap to whole-school cross-curricular arts integration highlights the school culture and academic benefits that are tied to the shift. The positive outcomes aren't limited to the traditional school day, though. Research shows that arts-based programs during out-of-school time help middle school and high school participants keep themselves on track to graduate. The Afterschool Alliance and MetLife Foundation just released a new [issue brief](#) highlighting how critical the arts are to providing a strong cadre of youth development options, and shining a spotlight on exemplary programs that are getting it right. As communities look for ways to lower dropout rates and ensure all youth are prepared for a productive, successful future, quality arts-based programming is an important piece of the puzzle!

[Read more on the research findings>>](#)

[Read the Afterschool Alliance issue brief>>](#)

Texas Looks into Expanded Learning Time

The Texas Legislature is exploring expanded learning time (ELT) for state schools, which would extend school days, school years, or both. Testimony before education leaders in the State Senate from ELT advocated for the change. Houston Independent School District's [Apollo 20 initiative](#), which included ELT in its set of reforms, showed strong academic gains for students. What's unclear in Texas - as in Denver, LA and other areas considering taking the ELP plunge, with the resulting necessary shifts in funding - is how the change would impact afterschool programs.

[Read more on Texas' interest in ELT>>](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[Post it here>>](#)

Association for Supportive Child Care

Phone Friend Coordinator (Tempe)

[Read more>>](#)

A New Leaf

Afterschool Program Associate (Multiple Phoenix openings)

[Read more>>](#)

Montessori Schools

Afterschool Program Positions (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

Bricks 4 Kidz

Afterschool Robotics Instructors (multiple Phoenix openings)

[Read more>>](#)

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

Funding Opportunities

***New opportunities in red**

America's Great Outdoors: Connecting Youth to the Outdoors Grant Program

Deadline: September 19, 2012

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available to Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management units and nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, or tribal groups that partner with these agencies for youth programs on public lands.

[More information>>](#)

U.S. Soccer Foundation Grants

Deadline: September 30, 2012

The U.S. Soccer Foundation annually awards grants to support both soccer programs and field building initiatives in underserved areas nationwide. Eligible applicants include community organizations, schools, municipalities, and other groups throughout the country that offer soccer opportunities to youth. Program Grants are awarded to purchase uniforms, goals, and training equipment, as well for operational and program costs. Field Grants include Synthetic Field Building Grants, Field Lighting Grants, Field Irrigation Grants, and Planning Grants, which are provided to assist with field design. The Foundation is especially interested in organizations that incorporate a youth development element such as anti-violence, educational attainment, healthy lifestyles, etc. into their soccer programs.

[More information>>](#)

GreenWorks! Grants and Grants for Registered PLT GreenSchools!

Deadline: September 30, 2012

PLT, an award-winning national environmental education program for preK-12 educators and their students, is providing up to \$1,000 for schools and youth organizations that propose environmental service-learning projects. New for 2012: Grants of up to \$3,000 will also be awarded to registered PLT GreenSchools (registration is free) that have established a Green Team, completed one of more of the PLT GreenSchools! Investigations, and propose a project based on the findings of at least 1 of the PLT GreenSchools! Investigations. GreenWorks! encourages students to "learn by doing" through community action projects that improve an aspect of their school or their neighborhood's environment. Some examples of past grant projects include energy conservation, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement.

[More information>>](#)

Navy & Marine Corps STEM Program Grants

Deadline: September 30, 2012

The Office of Naval Research's STEM education mission is 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. Proposals are being accepted for opportunities that would establish successful, sustainable, and affordable long-term, national Navy-sponsored programs targeted at elementary and secondary schools; establish and maintain a pipeline of students, particularly women and under-represented minorities, who will apply for and participate in Naval education and outreach programs; increase the number of domestic students (particularly students from under-represented groups) completing STEM degrees through enhancing student interest and attitudes toward science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and Strengthen peer, family, and school support for STEM programs, among other goals.

[More information>>](#)

Captain Planet Foundation Grant

Deadline: September 30, 2012

The foundation makes grants to U.S. based schools and organizations with an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million. Preferential consideration is given to requests seeking \$500 or less. Grants are made to organizations that embark on activities that match the mission of the foundation, which seeks to promote and support high-quality educational programs that enable children and youth to understand and appreciate our world through learning experiences that engage them in active, hands-on projects to improve the environment in their schools and communities and to inspire participation in community service through environmental stewardship.

[More information>>](#)

Green Thumb Challenge Grant

Deadline: September 30, 2012

GEF and Gardener's Supply Company have teamed up on an exciting funding opportunity for established youth garden projects nationwide! The organizations are calling on schools and youth groups to submit chronicles of their garden projects in a race to win a \$5,000 prize. The award is designed to support the continued sustainability of an exceptional youth garden program that has demonstrated success, and has impacted the lives of kids and their community.

[More information>>](#)

North Face Explore Fund: Helping Kids Discover Nature's Playground

Deadline: October 8, 2012

The Explore Fund will support organizations that encourage youth outdoor participation, focusing primarily on creating more connections of children to nature, increasing access to both front & backcountry recreation, as well as providing education for both personal & environmental health. Grants will be given up to \$2,500.

Organizations must have 501 (c)(3) status to be considered. Projects that encourage community involvement, focus on breaking down barriers to getting youth outdoors, and have a good chance of significant measurable results and momentum over a period of 1 to 3 years are encouraged.

[More information>>](#)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Forward Promise Grants

Deadline: October 10, 2012

The WJF is actively seeking proposals from innovative programs that offer a promising path to greater success for young men of color. They will award up to 10 Forward Promise Innovation Grants of up to \$500,000 each for projects with preliminary evidence of impact in the following areas:

- Alternative approaches to harsh school discipline that do not push students out of school;
- Solutions that focus on dropout prevention and increasing middle school retention and high school graduation rates;
- Mental health interventions that tailor approaches to boys and young men who have experienced and/or been exposed to violence and trauma; or
- Career training programs that blend workforce and education emphases to ensure that students are college- and career-ready.

Successful applicants will work in the domains of health, education, and employment and understand that partnerships and holistic approaches are vital to sustainable impact. Applicants should also be poised for growth and/or replication and demonstrate transformative potential.

[More information>>](#)

Nickelodeon Big Help Grants

Deadline: October 15, 2012

The Big Help Grants program is dedicated to the development and implementation of ideas, techniques, and approaches to addressing four key concerns - environmental awareness, health and wellness, students' right to a quality public education, and active community involvement. The grants target these four concerns as areas of great promise in helping students in the twenty-first century develop a global awareness that encourages and enables them to make a difference in their world. Applicants must be practicing U.S public school teachers or public school education support professionals. Grant funds may be used for resource materials, supplies,

equipment, transportation, technology, or scholars-in-residence.

[More information>>](#)

CVS Community Grants

Deadline: October 31, 2012

The CVS Community Grants Program will focus on inclusive programs and programs for children with disabilities under age 21; academic and enrichment programs at public schools; and programs that provide access to quality health care services and health education for at risk and underserved populations of all ages. Grant awards will be up to \$5,000.

[More information>>](#)

Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation 2012-13 Community Grants Program

Deadline: November 15, 2012

Improving oral health for communities and residents of Arizona, particularly the underserved and uninsured, is the mission of the Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation. Since 1997, the Foundation has focused resources across the state *promoting oral health and preventing dental disease* in children and youth through age 18. Organizations may apply for grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 to support oral health promotion and dental disease prevention programs serving children and youth (this includes programs serving pregnant mothers and children and youth through age 18).

Technical Assistance workshops will be held at six sites across the state from 9/6-10/1.

[More information>>](#)

Responsible Sports Grants

Deadline: November 31, 2012

Responsible Sports, a philanthropic program of insurance company Liberty Mutual, is accepting applications from youth sports organizations in the United States to participate in its Responsible Sports Community Grant program. Fifteen \$2500 grants, intended to help defray the costs of running a successful youth sports program, are available in 3 categories - large (100+ players) organization, small (under 100 players) organization and school/educational organizations.

[More information>>](#)

GTECH Afterschool Advantage Computer Lab Grants

Deadline: Rolling

The GTECH *After School Advantage* Program is a national community investment program, which provides non-profit community agencies and public schools with state-of-the-art computer labs. These computer centers are designed to provide inner-city children aged five to 15 with a meaningful, yet fun, learning experience during the critical after-school hours, in a safe environment. GTECH hopes to increase children's interest in careers in computers and provide them with the necessary tools to help them become more competitive in school and in today's job market. GTECH will donate up to \$15,000 in state-of-the-art computers, on-line technology, computer software and volunteer hours to each afterschool program selected.

[More information>>](#)

Ronald McDonald House Charities

Deadline: Rolling

The Ronald McDonald House Charities not only try to improve the health and well being of children directly through our programs, but we also work with non-profit organizations around the world that are making an immediate, positive impact on children who need it most. Grants to these organizations extend the reach and impact of RMHC and move donation dollars quickly through to areas in their time of need. Amounts vary.

[More information>>](#)

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

Awards, Contests & Fellowships

World Food Day Poster Contest

Deadline: September 30, 2012

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is accepting entries for their first-ever World Food Day Poster Contest from youth aged 5 to 17 from across the globe. This year's theme is "Agricultural Cooperatives - Feeding the World," described further on their [website](#). One submission per child will be accepted.

[More information on entering the contest>>](#)

The Green Thumb Challenge

Deadline: September 30, 2012 (for grant)

The Green Thumb Challenge seeks to encourage children to pursue gardening and the foundation offers free activities and standards-based lessons. All resources are free to registered members. Three campaigns within the challenge are Adopt a Plant, Plant with A Purpose and Volunteer.

[Register and learn more>>](#)

[View curriculum and activities>>](#)

The foundation also is offering a Green Thumb Challenge Grant, which will recognize a school or youth group's garden project with a \$5,000 prize.

[More information on the grant>>](#)

Constitution Day Poster Contest

Deadline: Must be postmarked by Oct. 1

Entries are being accepted for the Constitution Day Poster Design Contest, created to celebrate Constitution Day, Sept. 17. Sponsored by Constitutionfacts.com, the contest is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Poster designs must show how entrants benefit from the freedoms embodied in the U.S. Constitution. Posters must be submitted on 8½-by-11-inch paper and can feature any aspect of the Constitution. Entries will be judged on content relevant to the Constitution (one third) and artistic design (two thirds).

[Open Contest Entry Form>>](#)

Stop Bullying Video Challenge

Deadline: October 14

The Federal Partners for Bullying Prevention are inviting youth ages 13 to 18 to create a 30 to 60 second video that will inform and motivate youth to prevent bullying, and that promotes an environment where kindness and respect for others matters. Videos should be creative, informative, smart, and entertaining! The focus should be on how youth can be more than a bystander, feature peer to peer communication and positive messaging, and promote the www.stopbullying.gov website. Grand prize of \$2000, two honorable mention prizes of \$500, and all videos will be shown on the www.stopbullying.gov website.

[More information>>](#)

Humans In Space Youth Art Competition

Deadline: October 21

The international Humans in Space Youth Art Competition encourages youth to "Be Inspired, Creative and Heard." The 2012 competition invites young people from 10 to 18 years of age to submit visual, literary, musical and video artwork expressing their vision of how humans will use science and technology in the future to explore space and uncover its mysteries. Their submissions will be judged by an international panel including artists, scientists, teachers, engineers, astronauts and others. The winning artwork will be woven into displays and performances designed to relay the youth artists' messages to other young people and adults around the world.

[More information>>](#)

Future City Contest:

Register Sept.-Oct., Project lasts through Jan.

The Future City Competition is a national, project-based learning experience where students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade imagine, design, and build cities of the future. Students work as a team with an educator and an engineer mentor to plan cities using SimCity™ 4 Deluxe software; research and write solutions to an

engineering problem; build tabletop scale models with recycled materials; and present their ideas before judges at Regional Competitions in January. Regional winners represent their region at the National Finals in Washington, DC in February. Registration is \$25 a team, and includes an educator handbook, the SimCity 4 software, support, and a chance to compete at the regional competition.

[More information>>](#)

Trainings & Conferences

Common Core Basics Summit

September 22, 8:30 am - 12:45 pm

High Country Conference Center

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff

NAU's College of Education is sponsoring a Common Core Basics Summit. The program includes an overview of the Common Core, an introduction to integrating the arts into the Common Core by Arts Integration Solutions, and a keynote address by Kathy Wiebke of the Arizona K12 Center. This summit, is appropriate for pre-k to fifth grade educators and other interested individuals. The cost is \$10 (including lunch and materials) and registration and payment must be received today.

[More information>>](#)

2012 Northern Arizona Education Summit: Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities

September 22, 1-4 pm

Federated Community Church

400 W Aspen Street, Flagstaff

The event will bring together parents, educators, public officials, clergy, business, and other community leaders to discuss the threats to education at the local, state, and national levels, and how we are organizing locally to strengthen education for the common good. Hosted by Northern Arizona Institutions for Community Leadership (NAICL), childcare and translation will be provided.

[More information>>](#)

2012 Joint Arts Education Conference

October 15, 2012

The Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Arizona Department of Education have teamed up to offer the second Joint Arts Education Conference on October 15, 2012. Hosted by the Mesa Arts Center, the event provides professional development and networking opportunities for teaching artists, educators, arts administrators, and arts education advocates. Keynote speakers Peter Boonshaft, Professor of Music at Hofstra University, and David Dik, National Executive Director of Young Audiences, will inspire participants to lead the way in the rapidly changing world of arts education.

[More information>>](#)

WestEd Parent Liaison Training Institute

October 22-24, 2012, 9 am - 2 pm

Central Park Square, 2020 N Central Ave, Suite L-150, Phoenix

Parent liaisons often work without any formal training. This institute will provide the skills to be a highly effective liaison to families. The three sessions cover The APPT model to connect home and school curriculums, aligning family support services to student academic goals, and building parents' capacity to support student learning at home. Participation cost \$450. For more information on how to register, contact 480-823-9425.

Summer Changes Everything National Conference

Oct. 22-24, 2012, Pittsburgh, PA

Join the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) for its 2012 *Summer Changes Everything*™ national conference. You'll attend sessions designed to inform on a variety of current topics, from program planning to health and nutrition to STEM (Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Engineering) to policy trends. *Summer Changes Everything*™ is an excellent opportunity for summer learning practitioners and stakeholders across the country to take advantage of meaningful professional development, resources and networking opportunities to further enhance program quality and expand opportunities for the youth they serve.

[More information here>>](#)

2012 Statewide Afterschool Conference

November 3, Phoenix Convention Center

Get tips on transforming your program into a health a force for changing lives and saving lives from a nationally-recognized expert! Learn activities and practices you can put to work the next day! Take advantage of specialized Junior High and Administrator tracks! See the nine finalists for the Afterschool Awards of Excellence honored at our annual Luncheon! Enjoy all of this and more at the Annual Statewide Afterschool Conference.

Register today!

[More information>>](#)

Ed Trust National Conference

November 8-9, Washington, D.C.

Join hundreds of other educators, advocates, parents, and policymakers who not only believe all students can achieve at high levels, but are doing the work it takes and achieving success for their students. Sessions offer conversations with and best practices from educators at schools across the country that are working to close the gap and getting it done. Topics include implementing Common Core State Standards, ensuring on-time graduation and college/career readiness, closing the literacy gap, and more.

[More information>>](#)

How Kids Learn II

January 9, 2013

On January 9, 2013, the Learning in Afterschool & Summer project and Temescal Associates will hold a TED-like conference in the Bay Area entitled How Kids Learn II. The purpose of the conference is to inform and energize OST program leaders, educators, afterschool stakeholders, and policymakers about our current knowledge on how children learn, and to share innovative approaches to promoting learning outside of the classroom. Registration is open now, and space is limited.

[More information>>](#)

Community Events

Flagstaff Unified School District Forums on a Balanced Calendar for the 2013-14 Year

September 20, 6:30-7:30 pm, Flagstaff High School

FUSD will hold a series of public meetings in September to discuss the possibility of implementing a "balanced year" calendar. This schedule would keep almost two months free in the summer, schedule a break in October and create a longer spring break. Teachers would provide struggling students with remediation during the first week of breaks, and the second week schools would be closed. Community members will have an opportunity to learn more and discuss the issue at the two forums.

ABEC Prop 204 Public Forum

September 24, 7:30-9:30 am, Wells Fargo Bank, Community Room A, 100 W Washington St, Phoenix

Hosted and sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank and Arizona Business & Education Coalition, take this opportunity to learn more about Prop 204, the Quality Education and Jobs Initiative, as well as the concerns about its implementation. Ann-Eve Pederson, chairwoman of the Quality Education and Jobs Initiative, and Kevin McCarthy, president of the AZ Tax Research Association, will present the opposing view points. Free for ABEC members, \$10 for non-members.

[More information>>](#)

Reach Out And Read Literacy Awareness Day at Chase Field

September 30, 1:10 pm

Come enjoy the D-backs vs Chicago Cubs game with family and friends to promote and support Reach Out and Read Arizona (RORAZ), a program of the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. RORAZ promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud. RORAZ will receive a portion of each ticket purchased, as well as promotional space at the D-backs Community Clubhouse. Every child in attendance will have the opportunity to run the bases of Chase Field at the conclusion of the game!

[Click for more information and to buy tickets>>](#)

Girl Scouts Career Day at ASU Polytechnic

October 8, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Girl Scouts of Arizona has partnered with ASU and WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) to bring you a fun day filled with science and career exploration at the ASU East Polytechnic campus. Meet professors, eat lunch with students, and get hands on with tons of fun STEM activities!

Open to ALL girls in graded 4-12, even if not Girl Scouts. Fees: \$13 girl, \$8 adult. For more information, contact Crystal Kilkenny at ckilkenny@girlscoutsaz.org.

[More information>>](#)

Resources, Research & Reports

Make Incorporating Math Easy with MiM

Looking for a free, easy way to boost math skills in your program? Mixing in Math, developed with input from after-school educators, is easy to use and needs only common materials for activities, is written in an easy to understand way, and is free. Activities in the [Fall Starter Set](#) range from having kids create a quick survey about Halloween and counting the votes to participating in a scavenger hunt involving shapes, sizes, and numbers.

[Access the full free K-6 resource bank>>](#)

RIF 2012-13 STEAM Booklist Out Now

There is a lot of pushing and pulling in afterschool planning. Should you incorporate STEM? The arts? Literacy? Luckily, Reading is Fundamental is making that juggling act a little easier. Their 2012-13 STEAM - science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, for those in the know - multicultural book list offers a range of options for K-5 that can help get your fall off to a strong start in all these trending areas.

[See the list here>>](#)

Character Counts Week is Coming!

Character development is a natural component of quality afterschool programs. Through everyday interactions, staff model and students learn honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, citizenship, and other important qualities. From October 21-27, during Character Counts Week, bring those values to the forefront. The Josephson Institute offers free resources that can easily be implemented.

[Find out more here>>](#)



Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence

112 N Central Avenue, Suite 700

Phoenix, AZ 85004

602.496.3307

www.azafterschool.org
