

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

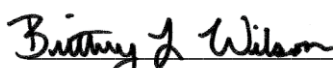
- WHEREAS,** Vermont is firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they: provide safe, challenging and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills; support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms; build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults; and engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and
- WHEREAS,** during the COVID-19 pandemic, afterschool programs have risen to the moment to support youth and are critical supports to help youth recover from this challenging time and address their academic, social, and emotional needs; and
- WHEREAS,** afterschool programs provide engaging, hands-on learning and opportunities to connect with caring adults and peers; and
- WHEREAS,** during the pandemic, programs innovated to provide remote learning support, virtual programming, care for children of essential workers, meal support, wellness check-ins, and more; and
- WHEREAS,** today, programs are supporting young people and families as they navigate the return to school and meet ever-changing needs; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont has provided significant leadership with community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and
- WHEREAS,** Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 28, 2021, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** many afterschool programs across the country are facing operating challenges so severe they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities to help our children learn and grow, while helping them develop skills essential for success in life and work.

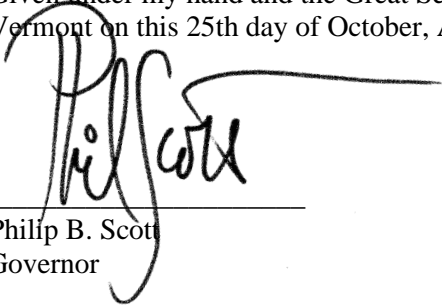
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 28, 2021 as

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 25th day of October, A.D. 2021.




Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs


Philip B. Scott
Governor