

Alachua County Florida

A Proclamation

Declaring October 24, 2024 as “Lights on After School Day” in Alachua County, Florida

- Whereas,** all citizens of the Alachua County stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they provide a safe and engaging educational environment that help children realize their full potential and support their academic growth and well-being; they help address key issues in our community such as school absenteeism, learning loss recovery, social and emotional skills, health and nutrition, and classroom behavior; and they build stronger communities by involving students, parents, businesses, and volunteers in the lives of young people; and
- Whereas,** afterschool programs provide critical support for children and youth, offering them new experiences and opportunities, along with hands-on learning, that help them learn and grow. Youth who attend afterschool programs attend school more often, do better in school, and gain important work and life skills; and
- Whereas,** nationwide, an estimated 7.7 million children are alone and unsupervised after school. The Children’s Trust of Alachua County supported 415 local students in afterschool programs in the 2023 school year; and
- Whereas,** Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 24, 2024, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs for our children, families, and communities. In Alachua County this year, the celebration will be held at the Boys & Girls Club northwest Gainesville location; and
- Whereas,** many afterschool programs face operating challenges even as demand continues to grow; and
- Whereas,** Alachua County is committed to providing expanded learning opportunities and values the support that quality afterschool programs provide children, families, and the community.

Now, therefore through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim October 24, 2024, as “Lights on After School Day” in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this 22th day of October, A.D., 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY FLORIDA

By: _____
Mary C. Alford, Chair

ATTEST:

J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq.