

Keeping the Lights On After School: A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the citizens of Fruita, Colorado stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential.
- 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.
- Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, after-school programs have risen to the moment to support youth, and are critical supports to help youth address their academic, social, and emotional needs. After-school programs provide engaging, hands-on learning and opportunities to connect with caring adults and peers. During the COVID-19 pandemic and to this day, programs have innovated to provide remote learning support, virtual programming, care for children of essential workers, meal support, wellness check-ins, and more. Today and into the future, after-school programs will continue to innovate to meet ever-changing needs.

WHEREAS, Fruita, Colorado believes in leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality after-school programs are key to helping our children become successful adults.

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of after-school programs held this year on October 20, 2022, promotes the importance of quality after-school programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

WHEREAS, nearly 25 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available.

WHEREAS, many after-school programs across the country are facing operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights.

WHEREAS, Colorado is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that help our children learn and grow, while helping them develop the skills essential for success in life and work.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Fruita City Council, does hereby proclaim October 20, 2022 as "*Lights On Afterschool Day*;"

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Fruita City Council enthusiastically endorses local after-school programs including Extended Hours, Eureka! McConnell Science Museum, and Riverside Educational Center, and commits our community to engage in innovative after-school programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the official seal of the City of Fruita this 18th day of October, 2022.

Joel Kincaid, Mayor of the City of Fruita

