

City of St. Helens  
PROCLAMATION

By Mayor Jennifer Massey

*Keeping the Lights On After School*  
*October 23, 2025*

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the City of St. Helens stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential and support their academic growth and well-being.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms.
- Help address key issues in our state such as school absenteeism, learning loss recovery, and workforce development.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, businesses, and volunteers in the lives of young people.
- Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by increasing kids' earning potential; improving kids' performance at school; and reducing crime and juvenile delinquency.

**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. These supports are all the more important today.

**WHEREAS**, the St. Helens Recreation Program is committed to the education and well-being of our youth and recognizes that quality afterschool programs prepare our children to become successful adults and help our community thrive.

**WHEREAS**, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 23, 2025, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs for our children, families, and communities.

**WHEREAS**, the demand for afterschool programs continues to grow; for every child in a program, four are waiting to get in.

**WHEREAS**, many afterschool programs face operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights.

**WHEREAS**, the State of Oregon is committed to providing expanded learning opportunities that help our children learn, grow, and develop the skills essential for success in life and work.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jennifer Massey, the Mayor of the City of St. Helens, do hereby proclaim **October 23, 2025**, as **Lights On Afterschool Day**, and enthusiastically endorse *Lights On Afterschool* and committing our state to engage in innovative afterschool 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 caused the Seal of the City of St. Helens to be affixed at St. Helens City Hall on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2025.

MAYOR:

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Jennifer Massey, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kathy Payne, City Recorder

*Place  
Gold  
Seal &  
Stamp  
Here*