



OUR CHAMPIONS ROCK



As a member of the prestigious **Panel of Champions**, we're counting on you to spread the word. Many people are not aware of the critical need for and incredible benefits for children participating in quality afterschool programs.

Here are the facts...

- Almost 750,000 (25%) of Florida's school children take care of themselves afterschool. These children spend an average of 8 hours per week unsupervised afterschool.
- The peak time for juvenile crime – and for juveniles being victims of crime is between 3 and 4 PM right after the school day ends.
- 86% of Police Chiefs nationally agree that "expanding afterschool programs and child care will greatly reduce youth crime and violence." They also agree that afterschool and child care programs are the most effective strategy for reducing juvenile crime.
- Multiple studies show that children in quality afterschool have better school attendance rates, promotion rates, and FCAT test scores. Further, they have fewer serious disciplinary offenses, lower dropout rates and lower rates of in and out of school suspensions than their peers who do not participate in afterschool programs.
- Recent research affirms that quality afterschool programs helps high risk children retain the gains realized in pre-kindergarten programs such as school readiness, Head Start and Voluntary Pre-K.

WAYS CHAMPIONS CAN HELP

FRIEND RAISE

Speak to your civic club, church or community organization about the wisdom of investing in quality afterschool programs

MENTOR

Become a mentor to a student

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer at an afterschool program or provide tutoring

DONATE

Provide resources such as sporting equipment or school supplies to an afterschool program in your area.

ADOPT

Adopt an afterschool program through your business, church or other community group

CONTRIBUTE

Financially support a community afterschool program so that they can maintain or attain the quality necessary to ensure the children in their care realize the extraordinary benefits that afterschool provides!

ADVOCATE

Share the message about the importance of quality afterschool with policy makers and legislators.

ABOUT THE FLORIDA AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

The **mission** of FAN is to provide unified leadership to advocate for the development, enhancement and sustainability of innovative, high-quality afterschool programs and policies statewide.

The **vision** of FAN is that every child has high-quality afterschool opportunities that are accessible, affordable, accountable and inclusive.

The **goals** of FAN are directly aligned with the overarching goals of the statewide afterschool networks:

- Create a sustainable structure of statewide, regional, and local partnerships, particularly school-community partnerships, focused on supporting policy development at all levels.
- Support the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure the resources needed to sustain new and existing school-based/school-linked afterschool programs.
- Support statewide systems to ensure programs are of high quality.

Thank you for supporting quality afterschool programs in Florida.

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Florida Afterschool Network

PANEL OF CHAMPIONS



START STRONG
STAY STRONG