



## Upcoming National Activities

**September 17-19:** National Conference on Science and Technology in Out-of-School Time

**October 8:** 4-H invites youth to participate in a national science experiment.

**October 16:** Families and communities are invited to their local after-school programs for Lights On Afterschool.

**2009:** The scientific community invites you to celebrate a Year of Science.

### National Spotlight on After-school Science and Technology

In September and October 2008, the Coalition for Science After School is leading a national campaign to generate funding and awareness for after-school science and technology learning. As the school year begins, Coalition members stand ready to assist after-school programs in the push to offer science and technology experiences to all youth. The Coalition calls upon government officials, private foundations, and corporations to support the delivery of high quality science and technology learning opportunities.

### National Conference on Science and Technology in Out-of-School Time

The Coalition for Science After School and Project Exploration are hosting a national conference, September 17-19, 2008 at the Navy Pier in Chicago, Illinois. This first-ever conference will bring together a national cross-section of program providers, researchers, and policy-makers in the growing movement for science and technology in out-of-school time. Sessions will include research-based best practices, curriculum development and evaluation, with a particular focus on equity and access issues for underrepresented populations.

### 4-H National Youth Science Day

To complement its science, engineering, and technology curriculum, 4-H announced a new national initiative named "National Youth Science Day." This annual signature event, which will take place this year on October 8th during National 4-H Week, will feature a "National Science Experiment" – a designated science activity that will engage youth across the country. 4-H will be encouraging all 6 million 4-H youth plus parents, teachers, and students nationwide to participate in this event.

"National Youth Science Day speaks to our commitment to provide quality, hands-on learning experiences in the sciences," said Donald T. Floyd, Jr., CEO and president of National 4-H Council. "Our goal for National Youth Science Day and the National Science Experiment is to make science fun and accessible by showing kids of all ages that they too can make a lasting impact on a national and global level. By encouraging more kids to study science, we can help corporate America fulfill its need for a more qualified and diverse workforce." [www.4-h.org](http://www.4-h.org)

**The Coalition for Science After School is committed to increasing and improving opportunities for children to learn science, technology, engineering and mathematics in after-school programs.**



### **Lights On Afterschool**

On October 16, more than 7,500 communities and 1 million Americans will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*, a nationwide event organized by the Afterschool Alliance to rally support for afterschool programs. Community organizations and programs are invited to hold their own celebration, or participate in a local event, and help call attention to the benefits of afterschool programs.

Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire learning. In the U.S. today, 14.3 million children go home alone after school. To sign up to host an event, locate an event in your area, or access event planning tools visit: [www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm).

### **Year of Science 2009**

The scientific community is preparing to shine the national spotlight on science in 2009 and beyond by celebrating "How We Know What We Know" in a 12 month event -- the Year of Science 2009 (YoS09). The goal of this national, celebration of science is to engage the public in science and improve public understanding about how science works, why it matters, and who scientists are.

The Year of Science celebrations are led by participants in the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS), a grassroots network composed of more than three hundred participating organizations representing universities, scientific societies, science centers and museums, government agencies, advocacy groups, media, educators, businesses, and industry - formed in response to recent concerns about national scientific literacy.

In concert with the January 2009 launch of YoS activities, the COPUS network is excited to highlight the launch of the new Understanding Science Web site, which introduces a new paradigm for explaining the process of science.

Join us in celebrating 2009 by visiting the COPUS web site to learn more:  
[www.copusproject.org](http://www.copusproject.org)

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