

February = We LOVE Afterschool!

Love is in the air! As Valentine's Day approaches, now is a great time to reflect and engage our communities in reflecting on why we love afterschool and summer learning programs.

The Afterschool Alliance has created a [printable template](#) for you to use to share why you love afterschool. Use this template as you work to engage your community this month.



State Advocacy in January

In January's Advocacy Activities calendar, we shared how you can find and connect with your state representative and state senator. If you haven't yet connected, this month is a great opportunity to do so via an office visit or inviting them out for a site visit.

You can also engage your legislators by having them share [why they love afterschool](#). Take them the printable template, take their picture, and make sure to share it on social media.

Local Advocacy in January

This month could also be a good time to show love to your program partners. Whether they have donated time, resources, or volunteers to help your program, take this opportunity to send them a Valentine,

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

2/14/17—Valentine's Day

2/24/17—Why We <3 Afterschool Contest Deadline

Next Month:

3/2/17—STEM Day at the Capitol

3/3-3/4/17—Celebration of Afterschool & Conference @ Tan-Tar-A Resort (Lake of the Ozarks)

Read more on the Missouri Afterschool Advocate blog:
<http://moafterschooladvocate.wordpress.com>

thanking them for their contributions to keeping your program going throughout the year. Also, plan to engage your partners by having them share their reasons for loving afterschool.

Activities for Youth and Parents

To continue spreading the love this month, share with legislators, school administrators, and your local community why parents and youth love your program. Have your parents and youth [fill out the template](#), and deliver these to your legislators at the Capitol or if they make a site visit.

Note: Be sure to make copies before you deliver these, so that you can save them for the future!



February is also Black History Month, which brings a chance to emphasize the historic achievements and contributions to society from African Americans. [Check out this website](#) for some curriculum and activity ideas to celebrate in your program.

Staying Connected via Social Media

Help us raise awareness for afterschool by sharing your pictures and "I Love Afterschool" templates via social media. For each individual picture posted or shared, we will enter you into our contest, and you could win some new afterschool swag!



Just post a picture of yourself with the template, or why you love afterschool on Twitter or Facebook, and tag it with the **#LoveMOAfterschool** hashtag. Entries are due by February 24, 2017. Each unique post = one contest entry.

Don't forget to follow us **@MO_Afterschool** on Twitter and look for the **Missouri AfterSchool Network** on Facebook!

