**How Can I Learn More?**

At any one time, there are at least 12,000 different OST activities and programs in Chicago. To find an interesting OST program in your neighborhood or to browse options citywide, go to: www.afterschoolchicago.org or call: 312.743.1511 the Chicago OST Hotline.

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<th><strong>ENROLL TODAY!</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Name ____________________ Organization __________________________</td>
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<td>Address _________________________________ Tel __________________________</td>
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<td>E-Mail ___________________________ Website ______________________________</td>
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**KNOWING QUALITY WHEN YOU SEE IT**

Found a program that’s right for you? You should expect to see the following:

- OST Programs take place in safe environments with appropriate emergency equipment.
- Staff are well-trained, knowledgeable, and committed.
- When refreshments are provided, kids are served healthy food and drinks.
- Staff offer a welcoming atmosphere.
- The program’s activities are interesting and engaging.
- Youth interact with both adults and their peers in a positive way.
- There are opportunities to work in small groups.
- Youth are encouraged to reflect on their experiences and express their thoughts to peers.
- Activities are structured, have a purpose, and foster goal-setting.
- There are opportunities for kids to explore their interests, cultivate talents, and develop new skills.
- Staff support participants as they stretch to accomplish new things and recognize their accomplishments.
- Teens build positive new connections—in their community, to staff and peers in the program.
- Teens can influence how activities are designed and operate.

Find out more about quality programs and the Chicago OST Partnership at www.afterschoolchicago.org.

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**ENROLL TODAY!**

Contact Name ____________________ Organization __________________________
Address _________________________________ Tel __________________________
E-Mail ___________________________ Website ______________________________
**WHAT IS OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME?**

Out-of-School Time (OST) programs are a safe, fun, and productive way for kids to spend their time outside of the regular school day — before or after school, over the weekend, on holidays, during the summer. Chicago’s OST Partners offer a diverse menu of academic, recreational, and cultural opportunities that enrich young people’s lives and help develop well-rounded skills when they’re not in school or at home.

**Fun for Young People, Great for Parents**

In whatever type of program they’re in—from arts to sports to reading groups—young people in quality OST programs are consistently engaged, supported, and challenged. Young people love it because they get the chance to explore their interests, learn new skills, and make new friends. Parents appreciate it because their children cultivate positive relationships with adults and peers, make the most of their talents, and are in activities that contribute to their growth.

Research shows that only 25 percent of Chicago teens participate in after-school programs on any given day and many believe few after-school programs appeal to their interests. Afterschoolchicago.org is an up-to-the-minute website for Chicago’s youth who want to find quality after-school programming. The website was designed with direct input from Chicago teens and lists program offerings from the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, After School Matters, Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Public Library and community-based organizations. Search for programs by type, provider, and hours of operation, or simply find out what’s available in your neighborhood — at any one time, the website includes more than 1,000 program sites and more than 12,000 activities! The site is also accessible to the public through the City’s 311 call center and at local branch libraries citywide.

**Research Matters!**

Research shows quality experiences in Out-of-School Time can help youth as they build their interests, identity, and social skills. Programs in a healthy, safe, and educational environment grow skills and abilities that are tied to improved academic performance, high school graduation, and success in college and beyond.

**The Chicago Out-of-School Time Partnership**

Since the founding of the Chicago Out-of-School Time Project in 2006, the Project and the OST Partners have worked to increase the access, reach, and quality of OST programs for all of Chicago’s young people.

**For more information on the Chicago Out-of-School Time Partnership**

Chicago Department of Family & Support Services
After School Matters
Chicago Public Schools
Chicago Park District
Chicago Public Library
afterschoolchicago.org
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Quality Matters!

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Find out more about the positive effects of quality after-school programs

The Chicago Out-of-School Time Partnership

Chicago Department of Family & Support Services
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Chicago Public Schools
Chicago Park District
Chicago Public Library

afterschoolchicago.org

For more information on the Chicago Out-of-School Time Partnership

leadership
initiative
growth