



**Morale, Welfare & Recreation Department
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Code 300 Bldg 352
1706 Bainbridge Ave
Gulfport, MS 39501-5001**

Dear Families:

We did it! The National AfterSchool Association has officially notified us that we have earned the honor of "Nationally Accredited Afterschool Program." This Accreditation was awarded after completion of an intensive program improvement plan that included:

- Meeting and exceeding the *NAA Standards for Quality School-Age Care* (36 keys with 144 standards in six categories).
- Conducting surveys and observations with parents, staff, and community members.
- Creating and utilizing a quality improvement team.
- Hosting national Endorsers during a two-day evaluation visit to demonstrate program quality in curriculum; environment; health, safety and nutrition; administration, and human relationships.
- Completion of a self-assessment and lengthy application process.
- Ensuring ongoing program improvement and compliance with national standards.

The National AfterSchool Association has more than 10,000 members in 50 states and 25 countries. The Accreditation system was launched in 1998 and is continually evaluated and updated to reflect current best practice in Afterschool and youth programming. NAA partners with many organizations, agencies, and individuals from the field, including the Afterschool Alliance, Department of Defense, YMCA, YWCA, Boys and Girls Club, 4-H, Department of Education, state licensing agencies, and other youth-serving agencies to ensure practices are current, reliable, and supportive of the programs and the young people they serve. The NAA Accreditation Council, representing top experts in the Afterschool field, in both the civilian and military areas, governs the Accreditation Standards and award system.

The NCBC Gulfport Navy Youth Center recognized the benefits to become an Accredited program. Since NAA has established the industry Standards for high quality, the program staff and parents chose to undertake the challenge of providing the best program possible, today and in the future. NAA Accreditation symbolizes excellence and our accountability and ongoing commitment to the children we serve.

We are very proud of this accomplishment and know that your support and participation helped us achieve it. We are honored to share this success with your family and look forward to our continued relationship as a provider, advocate, and partner in your child's future.

Sincerely,

Kimberly R. Reid
Youth Programs Director