



MEDIA RELEASE

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Arroyo Grande, CA America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): After months of anxious waiting, top honors for the prestigious 2013 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Orlando, Florida on September 21.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, “America in Bloom is helping participants of all types achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable.”

Arroyo Grande was judged on six criteria: overall impression, community involvement, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays, across four sectors: municipal, residential, commercial, and community involvement.

Katy Moss Warner and Melanie Menachem-Riggs, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the 12,000 to 18,000 category were Catskill, NY; Holliston, MA; and Washington, MO.

Arroyo Grande again received a five bloom rating and an outstanding achievement award for overall impression. The outstanding achievement awards only go to one participant among ALL the AIB entrants across ALL population categories.

In addition, they received a special award for the best historic restoration project.

Judges Katy Moss Warner and Melanie Menachem-Riggs said, “The overall impression of Arroyo Grande is of a clean city where everyone – municipal government, businesses and residents - are all dedicated to creating beauty and proud of what they can accomplish when they work all together. From elegant benches, planters and bike racks to bright flowers and healthy trees to lovely historic bridges and buildings, this city is an oasis of beauty.”

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Congratulations to Arroyo Grande!

Registrations for the 2014 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2014. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements.

America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.

For more information, visit www.americainbloom.org.

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