



MEDIA RELEASE

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Estes Park, Colorado's America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2015 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Holland, Michigan on September 26.

All participants were evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays. Additionally they were judged on their community involvement across municipal, residential, and commercial sectors. America in Bloom is the only national awards program that sends specially trained judges to personally visit participants. In addition, each participant receives a detailed written evaluation that can be used as a guide to future improvements.

Estes Park received a top five bloom rating out of a possible five blooms.

They also received an outstanding achievement award for landscaped areas. The outstanding achievement awards only go to one participant among ALL the AIB entrants across ALL population categories.

In addition, they received a special mention for their town's overall impression.

Bill Hahn & Ed Hooker, AIB judges, visited communities of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the circle of champions category for mid-sized communities were Arroyo Grande, CA; Washington, MO; and Holland MI. This year AIB established a new circle of champions category of competition reserved for those that have won their population category multiple times in past years

The judges said, "We compliment the Parks crew and others who contributed to the installation of many inviting and visually exciting landscape scenes throughout the community. More than a few include engaging art forms of bronze sculptures, floral fabrications, fountains and ponds, and even a musical sculpture with an audible option. They serve as intriguing focal points to invite one's curiosity and draw people in. "The Columbine" display, donated by the women's Sunrise Rotary, is particularly well done."

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom is helping towns and cities of all sizes achieve their potential. Every year our participants raise the bar, and the accomplishments and progress shown by this year's group is again remarkable. These are, without a doubt, some of the best places to live in America."

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Congratulations to Estes Park!

Registrations for the 2016 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2016. 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.

For more information, visit www.AmericaInBloom.org.

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