



MEDIA RELEASE

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2012 Honors in National America in Bloom Awards Program Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): Honors for the prestigious 2012 America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Fayetteville, Arkansas on September 22.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom participation is helping participating towns achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable."

Each of the 27 participating towns were 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.

Specially trained judges visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers.

Population category winners are as follows:

Greendale, IN; McCall, ID; Fayetteville, AR; Lakeside, OH; Holland, MI; Arroyo Grande, CA; and Smithfield, VA.

Criteria Award winners are as follows: (A criteria award is considered "best of the best" and is selected from among the entire pool of entries.)

Fayetteville, AR - Heritage Preservation

Springfield, OH - Urban Forestry

Racine, WI - Overall Impression

Winter Garden, FL - Landscaped Areas

Holland, MI - Environmental Awareness

Arroyo Grande, CA - Floral Displays

Madisonville, KY - Community Involvement

Special Awards winners are as follows:

Castle Rock, WA - Best Hanging Baskets

Rising Sun, IN - Best Program for Young People

Hummelstown, PA - Most creative idea for fundraising

Winter Garden, FL - Best trail system

Holland, MI - Best community garden program

Holliston, MA - Best tree protection program

Artesia, CA - Most effective use of bold foliage

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Coshocton, OH - Best community AIB website
Plymouth, IN - Community festival that draws the most attendance
Smithfield, VA - Best historic walking tour

YouTube video contest: Madisonville, KY

Community Champion: Marilyn Heifner, Executive Director of the Fayetteville Arkansas Advertising and Promotion Commission.

The following cities have achieved the rank of "**Circle of Champions**" which is for cities that have a combination of three population category wins and/or criteria awards.

Arroyo Grande, CA*; Greendale, IN*; Fayetteville, AR*; Holland, MI*; Tipp City, OH; Bexley, OH; Eureka Springs, AR; Lewes, DE; and Ocala, FL.

* 2012 participants

For a complete results listing, please visit <http://americainbloom.org/Awards-Program/Participants---Current-and-Past.aspx>.

Registrations for the 2013 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2013.

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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