



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

[lkunkle@ofa.org](mailto:lkunkle@ofa.org)

614-487-1117

## **Rising Sun, IN America in Bloom Awards 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."

Rising Sun, IN 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.

Specially trained judges visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Additional competitors in this category were McCall, ID; Castle Rock, WA, and Jonesville, MI.

Rising Sun competed in the population category of under 3000, receiving a three bloom rating and a special award for having the best program for young people.

The judges, Cindi Cope and Ed Rhinehart, commented, "Rising Sun has two programs for their youth. One program provides jobs to about 20 college students who water baskets and containers, and paint curbs and parking strips. They work 40 hours per week earning money for college while earning a sense of pride for their city. In the other program, Rising Sun high school students who volunteer 10 hours per year for four years can earn college scholarships through the Ohio County Community Foundation. Students must report back every summer before they can get the scholarship money."

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](http://www.americainbloom.org).

###