



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

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

614-487-1117

## **Arroyo Grande, CA America in Bloom Awards Results Announced**

(COLUMBUS, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2014 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Philadelphia, PA on October 4.

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

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 and provide a detailed written evaluation that can be used as a guide to future improvements.

James Sutton and Karin Rindal, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Arroyo Grande competed against Ottawa, IL; Wisconsin Rapids, WI; and Holliston, MA in the 15,001 to 19,000 population category.

Arroyo Grande received a prestigious five bloom rating and an outstanding achievement award for its 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 award for having the best water management program and a special mention for their newest mural project.

Judges said, “We commend Arroyo Grande for their community involvement – Arroyo Grande’s sustained involvement in American in Bloom is directly related to the extraordinary steadfast passion and enthusiasm of a dedicated group of volunteers...volunteers that work tirelessly to display the town at its very best...volunteers that are genuinely friends with each other in addition to being driven by the task at hand...and volunteers who are not afraid to experiment with new projects and ideas to make their town a better place to live and work.”

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Congratulations to Arroyo Grande!

Registrations for the 2015 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2015. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

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*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 enhancement.*

For more information, visit [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).

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