



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Estes Park, CO 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.

Susie Stratton and Sue Amatangelo, 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 4,501 to 10,000 population category were Belpre, OH; Catskill, NY; Brewton, AL, and Greendale, IN.

Estes Park won its population category and because of its many achievements has also advanced to AIB's prestigious Circle of Champions. They received a four bloom rating and a special mention for overall impression.

The judges said, “The natural beauty and wildlife of the entire area of Estes Park is breathtaking. Without a doubt the floral displays all over the city are done right and make the community come alive with color. From annual beds to container gardens, the city has provided a feast for the eyes of residents and visitors right from the moment they enter the city limits. Even with the damage from the flood and the mounds of silt that were left behind, the city is completely free and clean of silt, damage, litter and graffiti. If the judges had not seen the pictures of last year's devastation themselves, they would never have known how far this city has come. There are pocket parks everywhere and most are surrounded by well-tended landscaping, floral displays and water or sculpture features. Whether it's biking, hiking, skiing, photography or just enjoying the local sights and wildlife, it is clear to see why so many come to visit and why others come to stay.”

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Congratulations to Estes Park!

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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