



MEDIA RELEASE

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Gallipolis, OH 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.

Katy Moss Warner and Barbara Vincentsen, 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 3,501 to 4,500 population category were Lewisburg WV; Slippery Rock, PA; and the University of Findlay in Findlay, OH.

Gallipolis won its population category and received an outstanding achievement award for overall impression. Only one award of this type is given. They received a four bloom rating and a special mention for heritage preservation. In addition, they received a special award for having the best volunteer recognition program.

The judges said, “Heritage Preservation is exceedingly strong in Gallipolis with both historic and cultural heritage celebrated in many ways and in many forms. The “La Vue Premiere” sculpture at the Ohio River waterfront introduces the French heritage of Gallipolis. Many of the original French homes are preserved. The fleur de lis is the symbol of the city and Gallipolis in Bloom has encouraged the use of flower pots with the fleur de lis symbol. The new African Methodist church has been transformed into a center with a hands-on museum where the heritage of slavery and segregation are shared in an honest and uplifting way. Many historic buildings –commercial and residential - have been restored. The historic bandstand has also been preserved. There are many historic signs and markers. Gallipolis is a city that truly celebrates its heritage.”

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Congratulations to Gallipolis!

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.

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.

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