

Outstanding Young Man
Award Nominee:

Spencer Counts





Spencer Counts

Young Man of the Year Nominee

Achievements through projects in which you have been involved:

- Sullivan High School Concert, Marching, & Jazz Band, Percussionist (2021-2024)
- Sullivan High School Men's and Bel Canto Select Choirs (2021-2024)
- Sullivan High School Theater Department
 - Newsies, 2022 (Jack Kelly)
 - A Christmas Carol Gone Wrong, 2022 (Narrator)
 - Nevermore, 2023 (David Poe/Older Henry Poe)
 - The Taming of the Shrew, 2023 (Pre-Show Band/Vincentio/Priest)
 - Catch Me If You Can, Upcoming 2024, (Carl Hanratty, Dance Captain)

Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held

- Sullivan High School Ambassador
- International Thespian Society Troupe #8335 Member
- The Riverside Players Summer Theater
 - Bright Star, 2022
 - Big Fish, 2023
- Missouri Baptist Sullivan Hospital Volunteer at Community Events
- Franklin County Sheriff's Department School Disaster Drill Participant

Awards, recognition, or honors received

- National Honor Society
- Principals Honor Roll
- Southwest Area Choral Directors Association Regional Honor Choir (Little Rock, AR)
- All Conference Choir (2021, 2022, 2023)
- All District Choir (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- All State Choir Alternate (2024)
- State Thespian Conference Main Stage Show Cast Member (2024)

Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work, and visit, citing role models or motivating factors.

I think our town has a lot of great things for those who choose to live here and for those who visit. It has a lot to offer for people of all ages, including youth sports programs, many different types of churches, great public spaces such as the City Lake, pool, and sports facilities, and a lot of business to provide jobs and services. Having the State Park nearby is a great way to bring visitors to our community, and new businesses in the past few years like Silo, Schnucks and Starbucks give people passing by on the highway a reason to stop and check out what else Sullivan has to offer. As a student, my perspective on Sullivan is more of what it is like to be a young person here. As a high schooler, I recognize that many teenagers join cliques because it's a safe way to find people they relate to and are looking for inclusion into some type of group. I think sometimes this comes from not having enough life experience to stand on our own, or the fear of not having a group to belong to. What makes our school unique is that I don't feel these cliques or groups of students follow the cliché of bullying or degrading other groups of students. I think as a whole, our school is significantly better than a lot of other places when it comes to acceptance and inclusion, and this is something that is very important to me. We have some really amazing teachers who work hard to make our school experience positive and encourage us to not be afraid to be who we are, whether that is an athlete, a musician, an artist, an ag student, or a combination of these. I have truly tried to be a friend to all, showing respect for those around me, no matter our differences or similarities. As a band, choir and theater kid, I know my interests aren't the same as a lot of students in our school, but I have always tried to show respect to everyone and defend those when needed, regardless of who they are, what grade they are in, or what group of people they like to hang out with. Being a teenager is hard, and I think being a teenager in a time of social media is even harder. Living in a community where the teachers and staff at our schools are kind, accepting, understanding, and have the best interest of us students at heart, is one of the best and most beautiful things about Sullivan.

Spencer Counts is a Senior at Sullivan High School where he is a member of band, choir, and theater. He serves as a student ambassador, which is a group of trusted students from the freshman through senior classes who worked closely with administration to implement the new "Flight Time" lunch system. Ambassadors were chosen for their voice among the students through different grades and activities. This role is very important to him as he feels every student matters and should be represented when they have the opportunity to make an impact. Spencer believes everyone has potential, even if they have a hard time seeing it for themselves, and tries to be a person his peers can come to with anything, whether is it looking for advice or just to listen and offer support. Spencer has been accepted to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City where he will attend this Fall, studying Musical Theater.

Outstanding Young Man
Award Nominee:

Jackson Hamblin



Jackson Hamblin

Jackson Hamblin has been a student at Sullivan High School for the last 4 years, where he has been given the opportunity to further himself and others as a student and a human. In his time in NHS, Jackson has staffed several scholar bowl competitions, worked at the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance, and staff concession stands at home soccer games. Jackson has been a part of Band and Choir for all four years, and has been a part of the United Sound program for a year, where he helps teach students with special needs how to play an instrument and be a part of the band. He is also not afraid to help other students, never hesitating to help when asked to lead rehearsal or get kids caught up on work. You can often find him in the choir room practicing his music, helping Mrs. Moore, or hanging out with fellow students. Jackson believes that “everybody deserves a chance to learn, so when you’re given the opportunity to help one another, seize it. People will remember the way you made them feel, so be kind and make the world a better place.”



ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.

Brag

*Auditioned and was selected to be a part of the East Central All-District Choir in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023; The Four Rivers conference Choir in 2021, 2023, 2024; the Missouri All-State Choir 2023 and 2024; The SWACDA Regional Choir in 2022 and 2024; And the State Summer festival Choir in 2023 and 2024. *Continued on back**

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.

Principals Honor roll, 3x Conference Choir, 4x District Choir, 2x State Choir, NHS

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

I think making Sullivan an amazing place to be is very important, and respect the people like Jerry Douglass who gives up his free time to work as an unpaid Crossing guard at the Sullivan Elementary School and the people who work to keep our town pretty by pulling weeds and planting flowers along main Street and North Clark Street.

Outstanding Young Man
Award Nominee:

Parker Whaley



Major Achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been. Community or civic affirmations ,Accomplishments and leadership positions held

I Run Cross Country and Track and,On the Track Side I have helped with the Madi Bartle 5k helping setup and being a runner in it each of the last 3 years .In Cross Country we help with the Kaden 5k and we help setup and run it. I've done it the last 2 years. I am an Active Member of FCA,Future Christian Athletes and we have done a few service project,On November 30th 2023, We went to Walmart and bought christmas presents for people of less or people dealing with a traumatic time in life where they cant afford.Finally in March we will be hosting a youth rally to bring people in and spread the name of God.

Awards Recognition or honors received?

In 2021 I was a renaissance award recipient,Which is where the staff of Sullivan High School pick a student who has made a positive impact in the classroom.In 2022 I was selected into the Four Rivers Conference Choir Where i competed in an audition against my fellow Choir Members.In 2022-2023 I was Varsity In Cross Country.In 2023,I was Varsity Track.Also in 2023 I was Academic All Conference in Cross Country for having a 3.0 GPA or Higher During my season.In 2023,I was awarded the Coaches Choice in Cross Country for outstanding dedication to our program and willingness to make others better and overall being a good leader.Finally in December of 2023 I Signed with Jefferson College to Continue my Cross Country and Track Career while deciding to major in Health and Physical Education and hopefully be a Future Educator and Coach in the Sullivan Community.

Please Describe your feelings about making Sullivan a beautiful place to live,work,visiting and citing any role models and motivating factors.

Sullivan has been the town I have called home all 18 years of my life and I have loved all 18 years of it,From and pop shops to our amazing education system our little small town is an amazing place to grow and start a family and hope to continue to call Sullivan My home for as long as I can. I set to close a 12 year Journey this may i get set to Receive my Diploma I am excited to take what my role models have taught me and apply it for the rest of my life cause yea school sucks sometimes i have created bonds,friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.Ways i feel making Sullivan a better place is through Running and God to things that have gotten me here.I have three people i want to thank for getting me here.First My Mom Tamara,She has supported me when i said hey i'm going to try this cross country thing out,She called me crazy but has been my biggest fan.Second is the Cross Country Assistant Coach Amy O'Dell,This woman is like a second mom She helped find my relationship with god and helped me strive and work harder at something then i ever have.last the man who has trusted me,believe in me and overall pushed me to limits i have never been pushed to and that is Terry Wood.

Parker Whaley

I am Parker Whaley, I am a senior at Sullivan C-2 High Set to receive my Diploma this May and cannot be more grateful for the nomination. I am heavily involved in our School district as I do Cross Country, Track and FCA. FCA is something new I tried and I have loved it. FCA made me new friends, including God. FCA made me heavenly involved in the community like doing shopping for Christmas for community members or doing a Youth Rally to bring our youth in and help build that relationship with God. I am most well known for distance running, and I truly believe it has made me the person I am today doing so much to impact my community. Doing things such as helping in the Madi Bartle 5-k and Kaden 5-k. My motivation this past year has been "The amount you put into something is what you're going to get back".

Parker Whaley Inks With Jefferson College



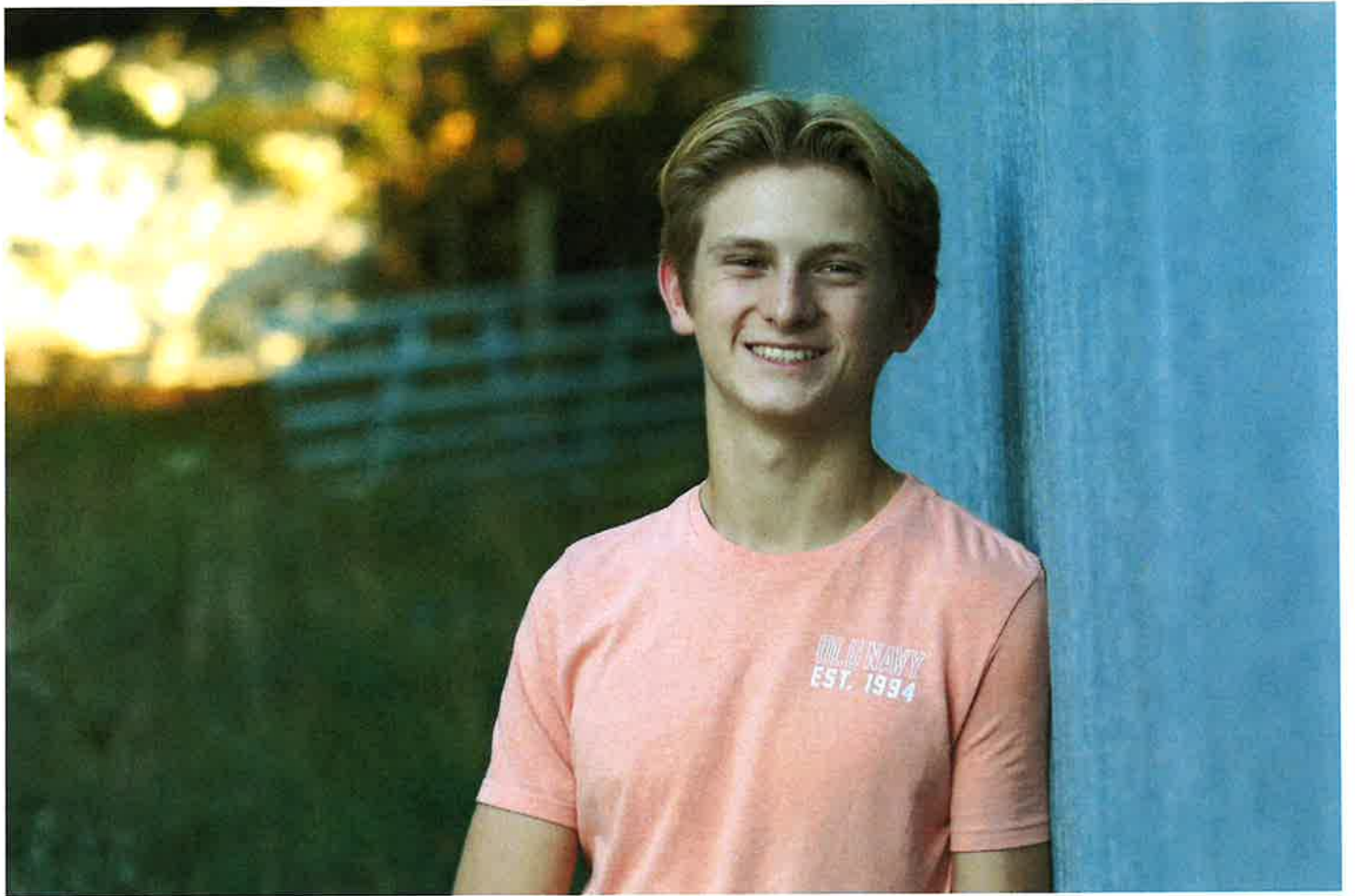
Photo via Sullivan Eagles X

PARKER WHALEY BECOMES A VIKING. Once he graduates from Sullivan High School, Whaley plans to continue his cross country and track career at Jefferson College. He is pictured here (left to right) with his cross country head coach Terry Wood, his mother and assistant coach Amy O'Dell.

Outstanding Young Man
Award Nominee:

Dock Thomure





Throughout high school, I've been involved with as much as I could handle. I was captain of the soccer team, a class officer, a NHS member, part of community service events connected with FCA, as well as events with other affiliations and AP/Dual credit course. Every year of high school I was a partner in the United Track Meet for Special Olympics, as well as being a volunteer for the blood drive at SHS. In addition to school involvement, I love serving others and being able to encourage them. Over the summer, I spent six weeks volunteering overseas in Turkey for refugees and victims of earthquakes. After returning home, I started a bible study group for high schoolers. Once a week we meet and share a meal together, then study the word. I believe that "there's no better way to improve your community than by having the humility to serve others and honor them above yourself."



ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.

FCA blood drive twice a year in October & April (position: runner, timer, etc). Class officer "Faculty vs. Fun" fundraisers (position: organizer & auctioneer).

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

Temple Baptist youth, NHS, Student class officer, FCA, independent youth leader, soccer captain, Pop Club leader, Link Crew leader, ZHYC mentor, six-week overseas earthquake relief in Turkey.

3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.

Varsity Soccer Captain, class officer, NHS member, AP courses, dual credit enrollment.

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

As a christian, I think serving others is incredibly important. There's no better way to lift your community than by lifting up others. I want to improve Sullivan for everyone, meeting physical needs so their spiritual needs can be met.