

**First Responder/Hero Award**

**Nominee:**

**Sullivan School**

**District SRO's**

**Sgt Allen, Officer Young, and Officer Hudson**



## **2023 First Responder Hero Award:**

Trevor Young

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

I have been a police officer for ten years. I have been serving the Sullivan Community for five years, three years in the capacity of a school resource officer. Throughout my time as a school resource officer, myself and fellow SROs have served the school district and the community by ensuring staff and students are safe at school. We have created safety programs and procedures in the school district. We have trained staff and students on how to ensure building security, how to observe potential threats and what to do when those threats are perceived. I spend copious amounts of time teaching students about bullying, internet safety, dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, and social emotional skills. In 2022 the SROs started the Sullivan Police Department's first ever Shop With a Cop program. We were able to raise money and take 21 underprivileged children shopping for holiday gifts. In 2023, we were able to raise enough money to take 36 children shopping! Our most major achievement, in my opinion, is the compassion and attention we put into making sure our children are safe at school and our progress in making meaningful positive interactions within the community.

### **Question #2: Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments and leadership positions held.**

I have assisted in coaching middle school track and wrestling athletes. I also have assisted in coaching youth baseball and was head coach in 1st-2nd grade flag football. At a local gym I help several members who are also Sullivan students with proper weightlifting techniques and nutritional advice. I have assisted in numerous fundraisers, including cancer benefits and fundraisers for homeless and impoverished community members.

### **Question #3: Awards, recognition or honors received.**

Throughout my career as a police officer, I have been awarded numerous Life Saving, Exceptional Duty, Grand Cordon, and Most Narcotics Arrests rewards.

**Question #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.**

Making Sullivan a beautiful place to live fosters a sense of community pride and cohesion. When residents take pride in their surroundings, they are more likely to engage in community activities, volunteerism, and neighborhood improvement efforts

The community of Sullivan as a whole inspires me. I am inspired by the closeness and generosity I see in this community. I feel inspired to work as hard as I can to make a difference. I choose to make Sullivan mine and my family's home and hope to continue to enhance the quality of life here, for all to enjoy.

**Summary:**

Officer Young and the other School Resource Officers (SROs) play crucial roles in ensuring the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the wider community within a school setting. They ensure this in the following ways:

- Building trust and relationships
- Preventing and responding to incidents through proactive measures
- Mentoring, guidance and support within our youth
- Promoting positive behavior and conflict resolution through anti-bullying education and fostering a culture of respect, tolerance and inclusivity
- Educating and empowering the community through parent instruction and promotion of law enforcement recommended parenting tips
- Creating fundraising opportunities to assist underprivileged youth during the holidays
- Lastly, by volunteering their time to also foster positive relationships and guidance to youth and community members through coaching youth sports and assisting with other outside groups such as churches



## Sergeant Jack G. Allen

Sergeant Allen, a 2010 graduate of the Missouri Sheriff's Association Training Academy, was hired by the Sullivan Police Department in 2012. He quickly adopted the public servant mentality and began doing everything in his power to improve the lives of the citizens of Sullivan. From aggressive drug enforcement campaigns to supporting the expansion the School Resource Officer Division, Sergeant Allen has made a positive impact on the relationship between the people of Sullivan and the Sullivan Police Department. Sergeant Allen often works behind the scenes and beyond the scheduled end of his shift to ensure the other members of Sullivan PD have what they need to effectively do their jobs. His phone is always on and he is always willing to help others succeed. This level of commitment has a long range ripple effect that inspires others within the department and in turn, strengthens the bond between the community and the police department. In his personal life, Sergeant Allen and his wife, Becca, run the Next Generation Ministries team at their church. He enjoys spending time with his four children; Chris, Matt, Andrew, and Natalie. Hunting, camping, and sporting events fill most of his free time. He considers himself blessed beyond all he could ask or think, and gives the glory to God for all the things he's accomplished.

#1, 2, and 3

- 2010 – Graduated 2<sup>nd</sup> academically from the Missouri Sheriff's Association Training Academy in Union. Also recognized for perfect attendance at the academy while still maintaining a full time job.
- 2011 – Commissioned by Franklin County Sheriff's Office as a Reserve Deputy. Basically a volunteer cop. Logged over 600 hours of volunteer time over a span of approximately 16 months.
- 2012 – Hired by Sullivan Police Department.
- 2012 – Received Life Saving Award for performing CPR on someone who was in respiratory distress and fading. Continued CPR until EMS arrived and then continued to sub in as needed for chest compressions while EMS prepped the patient for transfer.
- 2013 - After a year and two months, accepted a job with another agency for what appeared to be better benefits (I was wrong). This came at a time when my family was growing and I was trying to make the best choice for us as a whole.
- 2014 – Returned to Sullivan after an 11 month stint with another department. The separation afforded me with the perspective of just how much I loved Sullivan PD. When I returned, it was with renewed vigor and commitment to the people of Sullivan.
- 2014 – Received Distinguished Service Award for playing a pivotal role in preventing a suicidal person from jumping to their death onto a busy I44.
- 2014 – Received Police Chief's Letter of Commendation for extensive efforts in helping chronic drug users. Providing them with hope and resources to conquer their addictions.
- 2015 – Received Police Chief's Letter of Commendation for role in cracking a multi-state crime spree involving stolen credit cards and money laundering scheme.
- 2015 – Voted Officer of the Year
- 2016 – Received Franklin County CIT Counsel's Excellence Award for recognition of the commitment to citizens struggling with mental health issues.
- 2016 – Assigned to the SRO division. Proactively helped reshape the old and outdated SRO program and usher it into the more modern approach to School Based Policing.
- 2016 – Worked with students in the High School Graphic Design program to update the look of the SRO vehicle. Secured the materials and labor through donations and had the design applied to the vehicle. The student whose design was selected was recognized and his design helped strengthen the bond between the police and students.
- 2016 – Introduced the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety program to the primary school. The program is still in use today by the current SRO.
- 2017 – Introduced body worn cameras into the SRO division. Although it is almost a universal concept in law enforcement now, in Sullivan, the SROs were the first to wear them regularly.
- 2017 – Acquired a surplus military Humvee for no cost to the city. Collaborated with local businesses to design and create a PR vehicle to help turn heads and reach kids in the community.

- 2017 – Received Franklin County CIT Counsel’s Excellence Award for recognition of the commitment to the citizens struggling with mental health issues.
- 2018 – Helped to justify, and in turn, expand the SRO program by one to ensure an SRO posted at each campus in the district.
- 2018 – Worked closely with Elementary School administration during a remodel to improve building safety in certain areas. Provided insight and suggestions during the planning and construction phases.
- 2018 – Asked the SES Art Club to create a new design for the SES SRO vehicle. The club design was selected and applied to the SES SRO vehicle. A building wide “unveiling” was done and the kids in the school instantly adopted a sense of pride in the police vehicle parked in front of their school each day.
- 2019 - Received Franklin County CIT Counsel’s Excellence Award for recognition of the commitment to the citizens struggling with mental health issues.
- 2019 – Promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred back to the patrol division. Immediately took over as the fleet manager. In charge of acquiring, equipping, and maintaining all of the police department vehicles.
- 2019 – Received the Mental Health America - John J. McAtee award for active role in providing support and in turn preventing the suicide of a Sullivan student.
- 2020 – Received Franklin County ALIVE recognition for active roles and outstanding performance in Domestic Violence related calls.
- 2020 – Assumed role of the K9 Supervisor. Helped to identify areas that were causing the K9 program to struggle, consulted with command staff, and took steps to revive the program. Sullivan’s K9 team is now one of the highest performing K9 teams in the area.
- 2023 – Assigned back to the SRO Division as the SRO Supervisor. Proactively worked with the other SROs to polish the program. Implemented new protocols and procedures to help improve operational efficiency within the division. Added new layers within the program to better inform the stakeholders and further build the relationship between the school district and the police department.
- 2023 – Helped to coordinate the Sullivan Shop with a Cop event. Through the record breaking year, almost 40 children were treated to a \$200 shopping spree and Happy Meal during the Christmas season.
- 2024 – Obtained a School Safety Specialist certification. Continues to work toward improving and ensuring the safety of the future generations of Sullivan.

Sullivan Police Department and the city of Sullivan, have cemented a special place in my heart. The opportunities to help people, engage in public relation campaigns, and grow as a true public servant have been nothing short of incredible. I will always consider myself blessed to have had the opportunity to work under Chief George "Randy" Counts. Though I was slow to learn some lessons, he taught me many about what it means to be a leader, a public servant, and great human being. I continue to look back on his leadership and advice and use it to guide many of my decisions today.

The citizens and visitors of Sullivan have become "my people". Though I did not grow up here, or have generations of family ties to the city, I would lay down my life in defense of anyone that comes to this city. It is important to me that people feel good about their police department; even when they aren't so happy to see us. I have always maintained that I can do my job with dignity and professionalism, and not make someone's life unnecessarily harder. Many times Chief Patrick Johnson has told me many times that we are all just a few bad choices from being on the other side of the line. This saying has helped me to always treat people with compassion and offer them as much leniency as practicable; because this person is someone's person.

I would often tell young (sometime overly zealous) officers that it is important to never lose sight of the fact it is "us FOR them", and if you ever feel like it is "us VS them", you need to find another profession. My goal as a first responder is to live up to the idea that every interaction with another person is an opportunity to improve their life. I know, as a police officer I may not be the answer to every problem in the world, but even a smile, kind words, and pointing someone in the right direction can have a ripple effect that can change the world for the better...and for me, that starts right here in Sullivan!

I take great pride in serving this city. The last four years I have dedicated my passion in becoming a positive role model for the youth at the Sullivan High School. Being a police officer in the school is so much more than just enforcing the laws. To me, it is about being a role model, mentor, and someone that can be trusted inside the school. These last four years, I have built many positive relationships with the students that I serve. It truly is an honor when former students see me to tell me about their life, or just to thank me for the things that I have done. The world in which we live in today, police are mostly betrayed as the bad guys. It is my number one goal to help change this perspective with today's youth.

One of my most memorable calls comes from July of 2021. While working with the patrol division, I was called to the interstate to assist a Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper with a male subject in the median. When I arrived, I was able to identify the subject as a male juvenile that I had gotten to know from my time as a School Resource Officer. I observed this subject to have fresh cut marks on his arm and knew that this juvenile has contemplated suicide in the past. As the juvenile was sitting next to the fast lane of I-44, I was able to recognize that he was trying to build the courage to jump into oncoming traffic. After several minutes went by, I was able to build more of a rapport with him and lead him to safety where he received the help that he needed. With this, it helped me realize more on how important my role of a School Resource Officer is. Through training and on the job learning, my passion of being a School Resource Officer grows daily.

In 2022, I was nominated and voted for Officer of the Year with the Sullivan Police Department. I strongly believe that this was because of my true passion, and strong desire to help others in need.

I currently reside in Sullivan with my wife Brittany, and four kids that keeps us plenty busy. With actively serving this community and living here, it is a strong desire to help better the community in which we live in. I couldn't think of any better place than to focus my career on helping the future generation of Sullivan.



**First Responder/Hero Award**  
**Nominee:**

**Trevor Woods**



## Trevor Woods

Trevor Woods has been a Firefighter for the Sullivan Fire Protection District for over 10 years. In those 10 years he has been a Junior Firefighter for 4 years, Volunteer for 7 years, and Part-Time Firefighter for 1 year. He has received multiple awards for Junior of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, ran the most alarms, and received a Unit Citation for a rescue from a structure fire in 2022. He is currently an Assistant Junior Advisor for the departments Junior Firefighter Program, where he helps Juniors between the ages 14-18 train and learn everything they need to know to be able to further their career in the fire service and take the Missouri state Firefighter 1 and 2 course when they turn eighteen. In addition to being a firefighter, Trevor is active with the community, he had held 2 spots within the Meramec Valley Fraternal Order of Eagles #3781, as Outside Guard and Trustee, where their motto is, "People Helping People". He believes that, "Everybody has the ability to do whatever they want to do in their lives, they just gotta find the courage and determination to pursue it, and not get discouraged when life knocks them down a couple times in the process."



**ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

Promoted to Junior Lieutenant in 2014  
Promoted to Junior Captain in 2015  
Promoted to Junior Assistant Chief in 2016  
Elected as Assistant Junior Advisor in 2021 and 2023

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

Trustee for Meramec Valley Fraternal order of Eagles #3781  
Outside Guard for Meramec Valley Fraternal order of Eagles #3781

**3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.**

Junior Firefighter of the year in 2014 and 2015  
Volunteer Firefighter of the Year in 2017  
Volunteer who ran the most alarms in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2016 (Junior)  
Nominated for First Responder Hero in 2019, 2018, and 2021  
Unit Citation for a Structure Fire rescue in 2022  
volunteer with the most training hours in 2016, 2017, and 2020

**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.**

Making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work, and visit is important to me because I have been a Sullivan resident ever since I have been born and watching Sullivan blossom growing up to what it is today has been extraordinary, and it has been my life's goal to make this town safer for everyone that lives here and everyone that passes through the beautiful town of Sullivan Missouri

