

OREGON

SHERIFF

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JOHN GAUTNEY

FEATURED SHERIFF

A DARK DAY IN PAISLEY

OSSA HISTORY HITS

WSSA SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

SHERIFF GARY BETTENCOURT

SERVING WITH A BADGE & CAPE

LCSO DEPUTY COSPLAYS AS SUPERMAN



SERVING WITH A BADGE & CAPE

DEPUTY SERVES BY COSPLAYING AS SUPERMAN
LANE COUNTY



PC: Sheyenne Brusven

Elijah Dunnivant is considered a superhero at Greenhill Humane Society, a non-profit organization in Oregon's Lane County. His volunteer hero-job helps to make the animals adoptable and brightens the day for kids and adults when they see him dressed in his Superman suit.

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Dunnivant became a volunteer Superman with Poolie's Angels, an Oregon charity dedicated to helping kids in costumed events, and joined their effort at the Greenhill Humane Society by showing up as Superman. The response is overwhelmingly positive.

"Kids get wide-eyed; they think I'm the real Superman and walk up to me and ask me if I can fly." Dunnivant stays in character when kids ask him for an autograph and hand him a piece of paper by signing it with a big "S." A real connection occurs in these moments.

"I believe spending my time doing cosplay is a great outlet for me with my job," Dunnivant explained. "It's hard to find ways to de-stress and this is a great way for me to express some positive energy and another way for me to give back to the community. Because of what the superhero costume represents, it can draw attention to the things we care about in the community and put a spotlight on it."

In the end, the Superman costume reveals someone who cares. The connection of caring requires an intentional choice to be committed to others with the resolve to make a difference; however, it's easy to put off and wait until it's convenient. So, a choice to give the time and effort to volunteer must be made as well as following through with the decision to make volunteering a priority. For Dunnivant, the sacrifice of his time to volunteer has become a way of living.



Born in Roseburg on July 26, 1996, Elijah grew up in Glide and graduated from Glide High School in 2014. He was one of seven children, so growing up “always felt like the Brady Bunch.” He began his career with Lane County Sheriff’s Office on October 2, 2017 just shortly after turning 21 years old.

Outside of cosplaying as Superman, Elijah spends his free time traveling, directing independent films, and exploring the outdoors with friends and family. He is currently directing the third installment in a trilogy of caveman features called “UG 3.”

“What I enjoy most about working for the Sheriff’s Office is that everyone that I work with is family. Sometimes we bicker and may have our differences, but that’s what siblings do.” Deputy Dunnivant goes into work every day with a positive attitude. “My main goal is always to boost the morale of the crew,” Dunnivant explained. “Things that people see and do on a regular basis in this career can be pretty depressing, so even saying hello or asking someone how they are doing can cheer them up. **We have to take care of each other and always remember that we may be superheroes, but we’re still human.**”



To anyone wanting to get involved in volunteer work in their community, Elijah pointed out that there are plenty of options within nonprofit groups that don’t require costumes. If you are interested in volunteering as a cosplayer, join a local cosplay group and get a costume. “It’s a rewarding outlet and can cheer up a lot of kiddos,” Elijah says. “If you’re able to brighten a child’s day even once, it means the world to them and to their parents too.”

In just a few years, Dunnivant has managed to accept the challenge of taking on a variety of volunteer opportunities. “I do volunteer work in addition to coming out here (Greenhill Humane Society); I go to different events that happen during the year. We volunteer with Toys For Tots. We help out when they are doing a toy drive during the holiday season,” Dunnivant described. “We will also do children’s hospital visits through the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.”

Deputy Elijah Dunnivant is an inspiration who approaches life with the passion to give, making a meaningful contribution to the world both as a volunteer Superman and a Lane County deputy sheriff.

Dunnivant’s volunteer role as Superman has provided many opportunities to connect with others to make a difference. He has managed to take volunteering to the next level by giving people an unexpected and welcomed surprise when he walks in as Superman.

Dunnivant’s story does not end with volunteering as Superman. He’s also chosen the path of serving the community as a deputy sheriff for the Lane County Sheriff’s Office. A deputy sheriff is focused on serving and protecting the communities and surrounding areas, which can be intense much of the time. Even so, he enjoys his role. It’s hard to overstate Deputy Dunnivant’s positive impact on the community, which is delineated in one of his instagram posts with words to live by: “Your greatness is not what you have, it’s what you give.”



#JOINSERVEPROTECT

People often ask what they can do to make a difference in their community and surrounding areas. OSSA knows that there are many amazing individuals within Oregon’s sheriff’s offices that volunteer their time and talents outside of work.

With the *#joinserveprotect* marketing campaign, OSSA strives to showcase how sheriff’s office personnel have an impact on others whether that be through volunteer coaching, helping senior citizens, cosplaying to bring cheer to children, and much more. Our campaign highlights that they are in the law enforcement profession as well as caring about bettering their community.

Watch our social media for a video

