

Dr. Carl Grove's Y Story

At the Mukilteo Family YMCA, community means showing up and no one embodies that spirit more than Dr. Carl Grove.

Dr. Grove leads the Mukilteo's YMCA Mock Trial team, a program rooted in critical thinking, collaboration, and confidence. Originally launched at Kamiak High School, the team found a new home at the Y two years ago. "The Y has been very welcoming and supportive," Dr. Grove shared. "It was an easy decision to come with the team when we made the move."

Four years ago, Dr. Grove stepped in to coach the team. What began as curiosity soon became commitment. "I watched the students through my first year and saw firsthand how they used the skills they were developing. Their success placing in the top half at State was inspiring. After the first year, I was hooked."

For their team, every student has a role, and every voice matters. "Each person has a drive to contribute to the team and make it better," said Dr. Grove.

This year, that spirit led to a milestone moment. The varsity team placed first in the Snohomish County tournament. The JV team, made up largely of first-year participants, took third. Both advanced to state, placing 10th out of 28 teams. Among the top teams in Washington, two carried the Mukilteo Y name. "It felt great to be a YMCA team," he reflected.

Dr. Grove wants others to know that expertise isn't a prerequisite for impact. "You don't have to be an expert to volunteer. What matters most is showing up. The kids notice when we keep showing up."

Thanks to Dr. Grove's leadership, the Mock Trial program continues to shape tomorrow's changemakers, one case at a time.