

Grace's Y Story: Finding Her Place

Six years ago, Grace showed up at skate camp with a board and no tricks to her name, with no idea what skating would come to mean to her. Today, she's a confident skater who says she now identifies more as a counselor than a camper.

"I think I am still true to myself, as I always have been," Grace says, looking back at how far she's come. "But obviously, I have a lot of newer skills. I also feel like I have a lot more mental maturity."

Ask her how she feels at the skate park now compared to her first day, and the answer comes without hesitation: confident.

"I've been able to face the same challenges over and over again for a long period of time, with the support of my friends and counselors," she explains. "I've gotten better at mastering the tricks, but I feel like I've obviously improved tremendously since when I started, doing things I didn't think I could ever do."

That progress isn't just about the tricks, either; it's what conquering them has taught her about herself.

"It makes me feel brave and confident, like I achieved a big goal. A feeling I rarely find anywhere else," she says. "Skating makes you feel more confident, and like you can achieve more challenges in life than if you didn't have skating."

Grace has returned to skate camp every single year, and her reason has nothing to do with tricks. "I come back every year because I just love the people who work here," she says. "It feels like home. I've been doing this for a long time, and it just makes me feel happy, and I love everyone who I am surrounded by here."

For any kid about to have their first day, Grace has a message: "Don't give up, and you got this, homie! Skating can sometimes be hard to learn, but believe in yourself! It's a really fun and welcoming environment. Counselors, your campmates, they'll be there to help you achieve what you didn't think was possible!"

To learn more about the Mukilteo Y's Skate Park, visit ymca-snoco.org/skate-park.