

YSC Staff Spotlight

Name: Emelie Castillo

Title: Youth Organizer/Youth Services Assistant

Education: BA Communication Studies / MA in Communication Studies (*in progress*)

Hometown: Gilroy, CA



Family: Two sisters, one brother

Hobbies: Journaling, laughing, hiking, reading, studying, painting, going to the movies

How did you come to Youth Speak Collective?

It was fate. A friend of mine volunteered with Youth Speak, he brought me along during one of his visits. I fell in love with the organization, youth and staff.

What is your role at Youth Speak Collective?

My role at Youth Speak Collective is as a Youth Organizer. I hang out after school with the coolest kids at Charles Maclay Middle School. We play games, eat pizza, keep up with current events and learn about the most powerful life tools, our voice and sense of self.

What is the best part of your role?

The best part of my role is the sense of wholeness I feel when I see my munchkins laugh, smile or implement my advice.

What is your favorite TV Channel?

Hmm my favorite TV channels? That's a tough one! I don't watch a lot of TV. My favorite TV show are Vampire Diaries, Greys Anatomy and GLEE!!

Favorite place you have been and why?

My favorite place thus far, was the Grand Canyon.

My mom and step-dad took me for my 21st birthday! We took a helicopter ride through the Grand Canyon. I rode co-pilot! It was amazing. I swear, it's not just a big hole! There are so many colors and layers, breathtaking.

Where is the next place you would like to go?

The next place I would like to go is Europe. I have been saving up!

What makes you laugh/cry?

Just about, anything makes me laugh. Call me Mrs. Waterworks!

I cry when I see a beautiful sunset or a breath taking painting. I cry when life is lost.