

2022

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



On Sunday, May 31st, 2020, I was at home when I realized I forgot something I needed in the camp office. I took the short walk from my house through the tree line at the back of the softball field to camp. It hit as soon as I looked at the parking lot, that day should have been the first day of camp. Somehow I had forgotten until I saw the empty parking lot. I remember being very emotional as I realized for the first time in 73 years no campers would enter through the gates of Wyldewood that summer.

As summer faded into fall, we were determined to make the summer of 2021 special. We knew our campers and their families had been through a lot in the last year and a half and we wanted to provide an uplifting and memorable experience. The theme of Resurrection seemed more than fitting at a time when our society was coming back to life.

With COVID still a factor, we had no idea what to expect as we entered the spring and prepared for camp. We were thrilled to see so many of our families return to Wyldewood. After two years, it was hard to recognize some of them.

“ Even more exciting, over 40% of our campers who attended Wyldewood this summer were first-time campers! ”

It truly was an amazing summer filled with life-changing decisions to follow or recommit to Christ, the rekindling of old relationships and the forming of new friendships in a community of believers, and a chance to reconnect with God's creation at Wyldewood!

We are forever grateful to our families for entrusting us with your children during these uncertain times. We will never forget the donors that stepped up during the last couple of years to ensure Wyldewood would be ready to fulfill our mission once campers were able to return.

We look forward to seeing what our amazing God has in store for this place we call Camp Wyldewood in the future! May we always be a place where HIS name is glorified!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Interview with Dale Sheehy

Were you a camper at Wyldewood?

I was a camper in the summer of 1982 for four days. My family had just moved to Arkansas and my parents thought it would be good to send me to camp. I was so homesick that I only stayed a few days. That didn't keep me from working at camp after my freshman year at Harding. Coach Groover was the director at the time and I was the first child of a former counselor (or in this, case counselors) that he hired. My parents worked at Wyldewood while they were at Harding.

How long did you work at Wyldewood?

I worked full-time during the summers of '91 and '92. In '91 I was in a cabin for four sessions and worked on staff the other. Most of my time was spent with Group 1 although I did work with Group 3 during the third session. In '92, I was the Group 1 group leader for four sessions and a lifeguard for one session. I came back in '94 and '95 and worked as a group preacher for Group 1. Since 2015 I've been bringing a group from Waco, TX to 5th session and have been a group Bible teacher during that session. It's been fun for me to introduce a new generation of campers to a place that I love so much.

What are some of your fond memories about your time working at Wyldewood?

Without a doubt, my fondest memory is meeting my future wife Kim in the summer of '92. I can still show you the place at camp where I asked her out on a date for the first time. Camp is a place where you make lifelong friendships. Many of the people that I worked with I still stay in touch with and see them regularly. There's a bond that forms working together in that setting that seems to last over the years. There are also campers that I still am in touch with from those summers. It's been fun to see them grow up and become parents who are now sending their own children to Wyldewood. There are so many great memories that it's hard to choose, but some of the top ones would be devotionals at Bee Rock, shaving cream fights, cookouts, and some of the trips that we took in between sessions to places like Heber Springs and Eureka Springs to see the Passion Play.

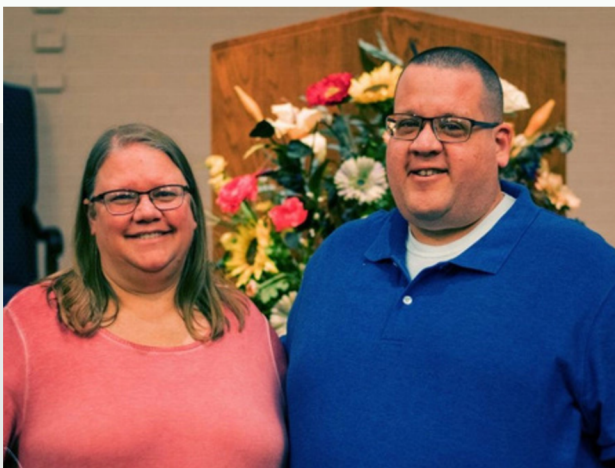


Any crazy memories from your time?

In '91 in between two of the sessions, some of us went to Greers Ferry Lake and spent most of the day swimming. I forgot to put on sunscreen and became so badly sunburned that the next session I was absolutely miserable. I learned a valuable lesson. Wear your sunscreen kids!

What have you done since leaving Wyldewood?

For the most part, I've worked in youth and family ministry full-time. I've worked for churches in Little Rock, Arkansas, Sulphur, Louisiana, and our current home, Waco, TX where we've been since 2008.

***Tell us about your family?***

Kim and I were married in 1994 at the old retreat center. She graduated from Harding with her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. Kim has been working for Head Start since the late '90s and is currently the Education/Curriculum Coordinator for Head Start here in Waco. We have twins (a son and daughter) who just turned eighteen and are seniors in high school. They've been coming to Wyldewood since 2015. We moved to Waco in 2008 and love it here.

Why did you decide to bring a group back to Wyldewood?

We were looking for a camp session for our high school students at church. We hold a junior camp session at a camp in Texas but didn't have anything for our older students in 2015. I had wanted to bring a group to Wyldewood for years but it just didn't fit our schedule. I proposed it to the elders at our church and they told me to see who was interested in going. If I remember correctly, Kim and I brought six or seven campers with us that summer to the 5th session. I was a group Bible teacher that session and we've been bringing a group ever since.

How has your perspective about Wyldewood changed seeing it through the eyes of your youth group, especially your own children?

I love the good that happens at Wyldewood. I see the staff that works hard to take care of and set an example for their campers. They understand that they have an influence on these campers and take it seriously.

Anything else you would like to add?

Wyldewood will always hold a special place in the hearts of me and my family. It's a place where kids and teens can get away from most of the pressures and distractions that they face in their lives and where they can get to know God better (maybe some of them for the first time).



2020 Golf Tournament

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Brian & Alli Bullard	Cody Rogers	Leigh Ellen Pigg Lively	Leigh Ellen Pigg Lively
Caleb Hopper	Daniel & Emily Smith	Logan & Cindi Ingram	Logan & Cindi Ingram
David & Kelsey Baird	David & Brittany Moore	Sherwood Urgent Care	Sherwood Urgent Care
Erin Bangerter	Debbie Jones	Lynn's Automotive	Lynn's Automotive
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Allen & Jenny Henderson	Today's Family Dentistry	Reid & Cheryl Simmons	Reid & Cheryl Simmons
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Allison Bass	Jay & Myra Shock	Rusty Garner	Rusty Garner
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Frank & Becky McCown	Josh & Amy Moore	Shanna Fisher	Shanna Fisher
Bethany Jones	Judy & Charles Posey	Shannon Caldwell	Shannon Caldwell
Bill Perring	Kayla Rogers	Shirley Milburn	Shirley Milburn

2020 Golf Tournament



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Keith Team
Curtis/Leisure Team
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Absolute Roofing

Sherwin Williams
Searcy Heat & Air
Southern Pipe (2 teams)
Motto Mortgage
Iron Vac Trucks



Special Thank You To Our Corporate Sponsor!

2021 SUMMER CAMP



Epic Group 4 tetherball tournament during 2nd Session was serious business!



Daycampers going through the tunnel after being dismissed from Morning Praise.



Miles with the catch of the day during 5th Session!



Jackson, Jonny, Levi, Elijah, and Gunner enjoying a fun day at the lake!



Counselor, Bailey Hudelson, having fun with her 4th Session campers during Morning Praise.



Counselor, Trey Bailey, all tied up having fun with his varsity day campers.

2021 SUMMER CAMP



Cabin G5, 4th Session



Campers thoroughly enjoyed Camp's newest addition, the Nautilus!



Connor, Travis, David, and Jacob hanging out at the softball field during 4th Session.



Group 1 campers enjoying night canteen 3rd Session.



Day camp Director, Aubrey McAleese, enjoying a great summer in JV Day camp with her campers and staff.



Tobias gives the counselors some stiff competition in Camp's newest game, Golden Goal.

Staff Spotlight

LEXI

I first came to Camp Wyldewood as a camper when I was eleven years old. Since that first session, I was completely hooked! I began working on staff as soon as I graduated from high school, and I worked as a counselor for three years. I learned so much from those summers; I learned how to love and serve others, and I learned what it means to be Jesus's hands and feet.

I was hired as the Female Team Leader in 2019, and I was excited to return in 2021. In those two summers, I was able to view camp from a very different perspective. Instead of spending my days with one cabin and one group, I got to spend my days seeing every single camper and staff member at Wyldewood!

Going into my first summer, I didn't fully understand everything that my job would include, but I quickly learned what it means to be a servant leader. By watching Chad and Brian's examples, I learned that being in a leadership position at Wyldewood sometimes means doing the less glamorous jobs, but those jobs can be some of the most fun when you are doing them with the right group of people!

Getting to know and love campers and counselors in every group was one of the biggest blessings I received from Wyldewood. Being available to help wherever I was needed was one of the most fun aspects of my job. I loved getting to be directly involved in ministering to campers, but I also loved serving behind the scenes with the rest of the staff!

I couldn't have asked for a better Male Team Leader to work with than Michael! I was lucky enough to work with him for two full summers and I have never met a more selfless, Christlike man. There is no one I would have rather had by my side as we faced daily camp adventures! Working with Michael, Chad, Brian, and the rest of the 2019 and 2021 leadership teams, truly created some of my favorite memories from Wyldewood!



Staff Spotlight

MICHAEL

My name is Michael Hammonds, and I served as the Male Team Leader for the past two summers. For those of you who don't know who the team leader is, or what they do, just think of us as the "counselor's counselor"!

Holding this position at Camp Wyldewood has truly been the best job experience that I have had! It broadened my perspective on my faith, I formed some of the best relationships in my life, and I had more fun than everyone else at camp put together! With the unique perspective that I had, I got to see many different camper's faith grow in ways that I did not see when I counseled. A big part of that is because of the example being directly set by their counselors and staff members that were in their groups and in their cabins.

Watching the campers form relationships with their peers, their counselors/staff members, and with God is truly indescribable with words. And one of the best parts of it all, I was still able to form and cultivate a lot of relationships, even though I wasn't counseling. The reason why, and this is one of my favorite things about being the Team Leader, is that I literally got to see and speak to everyone at Camp Wyldewood on a daily basis! I had opportunities to form relationships with both campers and my peers because I was the Male Team Leader.

The other best part of my job was working with the Female Team Leader, Lexi! There are very few people that I have met in my lifetime that display the fruits of the spirit as well as she does! There were a lot of moments that I relied on her humor, strength, and wisdom to help me through tough times out at camp, and I really cannot think of ANYONE else that I would want to be a Team Leader alongside.

The verse that I've relied on the most since working at Camp Wyldewood is Galatians 6:9-10, and it reads, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." I Pray that this verse helps anyone reading this as much, if not more than it has helped me over the last few years.

I have been blessed beyond measure to be put in the position that I was in for the past two summers. I've always believed that God will put you in the position that you need to be in, in order to grow in your faith and truly reach your full potential. To this very day, I'm still figuring out why I was chosen for that position. All I know now, is that God's plan is always fruitful, and faith in God's plan will always lead to glory. I pray that everyone reading this will have the strength and wisdom to hear and follow the plan that God has made out for you!





Camper Spotlight

HANNAH JARCHOW

155 Riverside Park Rd, Searcy, AR 72143 is a place full of love, laughter, food, and so many memories you can't remember every single good moment. Every counselor and director loves the campers unconditionally. They want to help you love God more, make new friends, and encourage you to love life.

My first summer was a year full of learning to live with others, how to be a friend to people of all kinds, and learning what my faith was without my parents being right by my side. Wyldewood encourages their campers to have a relationship with God. No matter what stage your relationship with God is at when you come, they want you to have a stronger relationship with him.

My second and third year are years that built my faith. My counselors poured unconditionally into me. They loved me, they hurt for me, and they guided me to be a better person of Faith. These two years are completely full of memories. Both of the cabins I was in were full of girls who loved full hearted. They wanted the best for me and everyone around us. These girls encouraged me to do better in life, and to do better in Nukem'. Another thing that I love about Camp Wyldewood is that the staff does everything they can to make the summer the best. Whether it's through making morning praise extremely energetic, having crazy group parties, or swimming in the lake even when it's freezing. Camp Wyldewood is a place full of love and laughter.

This past summer was my favorite summer camping. My counselors were Maddy Hall and AC Williams. These two girls truly built my faith and shaped who I am. They empowered me to be the best version of myself, but also told us that it's okay if it takes awhile to get there. They poured into us and showed us that we are worthy. I have never met two people as kind hearted as them. This past summer was filled with laughter. Probably the most I have ever laughed. I have never felt God's presence more. Maddy, AC, and many others are the people that make Camp Wyldewood amazing.

If you are thinking about going to Camp Wyldewood, do it. I believe that God is present there, and he will show you how good He is. God presents himself through the beautiful nature, through loving people, and constantly showing us signs of his Glory. I am beyond thankful for this camp and the things it has taught me. It's brought me lots of friends, many years of having a voice when I came and no voice when I left (lots of singing will do this to you), and amazing counselors. God is good, and so is Camp Wyldewood.

BENEATH THE SURFACE



"THIS WAS TO FULFILL WHAT WAS SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET: "I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER WHAT HAS BEEN HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.""
MATTHEW 13:35

REGISTRATION & OTHER INFORMATION



Registration begins on **January 1, 2021**

Register online at campwyldeewood.org

Super Early Bird Discount (\$20) if registered before April 1st

Early Bird Discount (\$10) if registered in the month of April

2022 SUMMER SESSION & DATES

SESSION	START DATE	ENDING DATE	# OF DAYS	COST
Session 1	Sunday, May 29th	Friday, June 3rd	6	\$285
Session 2	Sunday, June 5th	Friday, June 10th	6	\$285
Session 3	Sunday, June 12th	Thursday, June 23rd	11	\$450
Rental Week	Sunday, June 26th	Saturday, July 2nd	7	-
Session 4	Sunday, July 3rd	Thursday, July 14th	11	\$450
Session 5	Sunday, July 17th	Friday, July 22nd	6	\$285
Session 6	Sunday, July 24th	Friday, July 29th	6	\$285

GROUPS

GROUPS

AGES

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | 8 - 10 years |
| 2 | 11 - 12 years |
| 3 | 13 - 14 years |
| 4 | 15 - 18 years |



ACTIVITIES

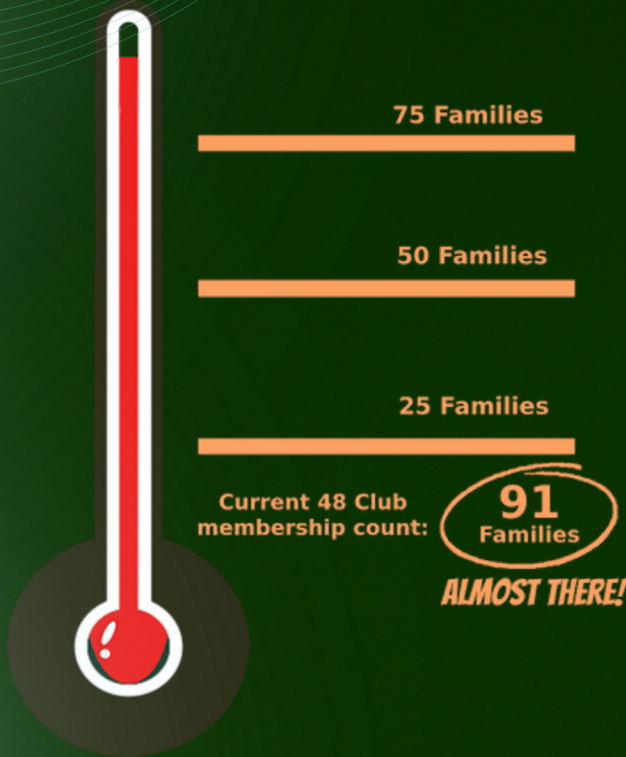
- Archery Tag
- Gaga Ball
- Archery
- BB Guns
- Blob
- Golden Goal
- Basketball
- Hatchet Throw
- Hiking
- Rappelling
- Arts & Crafts
- 9 Square in the Air

...swimming and much more!

THE 48 CLUB

GOAL

100 Families



Last year, we introduced The '48 Club as a way to identify our monthly donors. We ended 2020 with 52 families or businesses that donated on a monthly basis. We set a goal in 2021 to increase this number to 100. As we write this article in early October our total number of commitments is 91!

Monthly donations help provide a steady revenue stream for camp during the off-season. These donations allow us to keep the cost of a session to a reasonable amount for our families, while still providing a great experience for our campers. We believe an incredible camp experience should be available to all the kids who want to experience the love of Jesus at Wyldewood. In an ever-changing culture, Christian Camping continues to be a great mission field where thousands of young people's lives are changed each summer.

If you are receiving this newsletter it is likely that your life or someone close to you was impacted by the ministry at Wyldewood. We are asking that you consider joining The '48 Club to help ensure the ministry continues to grow.

We are blown away by the support our former campers, counselors, and current families continue to show for the ministry at Wyldewood! We have faith that if we stay committed to teaching young people the love of Jesus, God will continue to bless this ministry.

DONATION OPTIONS



Go to campwyldewood.org

Hover over the "Donate" tab, click on the "The '48 Club" (or use the QR Code) to set up monthly online donations.

Checks can be mailed to:

Camp Wyldewood
P.O. Box 1255
Searcy, AR 72145

Please indicate 48 Club in the memo line.

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2020 Donors

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2020 Donors

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STAFF IN TRAINING

This summer, we started a new program called "Staff In Training" (SIT). High school students interested in volunteering for a session at camp, could apply to spend an extra week at camp, free of charge, learning what it is like to serve as a Wyldewood staff member. SIT members spent their time helping our summer staff by serving meals & canteen, setting up for activities & group parties, and so much more. The pilot program was a success! We had 12 different campers work as SIT this past summer and they did a great job furthering the mission at Camp Wyldewood. High school students interested in applying to be a Staff In Training for the 2022 summer can find our application online at campwyldewood.org. Here's what some of our Staff In Training from last summer had to say about their time in the program



KYLIE

"For me, Staff in Training was a perfect transition from camping to working at Wyldewood. It gave me a new perspective on being a staff member—as well as a new appreciation for those who serve meals and canteen! I really enjoyed it and I loved getting to know the staff. It was strange not being a camper, but after doing SIT, I'm even more excited to hopefully work at Wyldewood as a full-time staff member in the future"



JT

"SIT meant a lot to me. I had a lot of fun, and it prepared me to be a future staff member. Working alongside the staff, I learned about Wyldewood and life. From canteen to meals to group parties, it was an experience I will never forget."



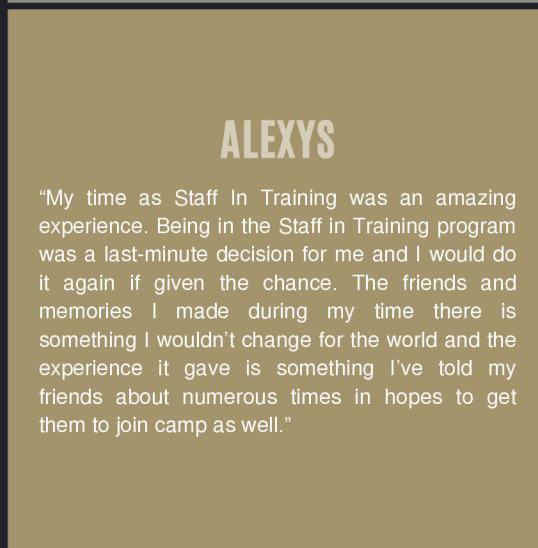
MICHAEL

"My mom saw a post about Staff in Training on Facebook, and I signed up as soon as possible. Being staff in training was different from being a camper because our focus was on giving each camper a great experience. Staff in training is one of the best things I've ever done and I will most definitely be doing it again."



KELSEY

"I learned so much about all of the behind-the-scenes that make the camp we love so enjoyable. It was an incredible experience to see how the staff of Wyldewood interacts not only with the campers but each other. They seriously are one big family united in God. Staff in Training volunteers were quickly taken up under the wing of the staff and we were able to build long-lasting friendships. It was really an amazing way to be able to serve at one of my favorite places and get a little taste of what it takes to make everything run smoothly. I have a great appreciation for the staff at Wyldewood and can't wait to, hopefully, be a part of it next summer."



ALEXYS

"My time as Staff In Training was an amazing experience. Being in the Staff in Training program was a last-minute decision for me and I would do it again if given the chance. The friends and memories I made during my time there is something I wouldn't change for the world and the experience it gave is something I've told my friends about numerous times in hopes to get them to join camp as well."



Memorials

Howard Davis

Jill Averitt

Wayne Bolding

Lisa & Sam Miller

Susan & Rick Harper

Jackie & Nelson Ruscin

June Dockery

Nell Owen

Maxine Shepherd

Laura & Cecil Tilley

Gayle & Kenneth Nash

Hugh Groover

Mildred Groover





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