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Lydia Radke 2024 Janie Kirby Award Recipient

Every summer since 2014, the Wyldewood Staff selects a fellow counselor to receive the Janie Kirby Award. Janie served as a counselor in the 1970s and is fondly remembered by those she worked with as a great example of what a Wyldewood counselor should be.

The 2024 staff selected Lydia Radke as this year's recipient of the award. A fellow counselor said Lydia "is patient, kind, and loving. Lydia does an amazing job listening, paying close attention to, and learning from campers and fellow counselors." Another said "Lydia has the sweetest spirit that is so perfect for our work. She is wise beyond her years and has faith like a child that can be seen in how she clings to the Spirit."

We are beyond thankful we have counselors like Lydia sharing the good news with our campers and we are so excited to welcome Lydia back to camp as a counselor in 2025!

Tribute To CHAD HUDELSON by Brian Bullard

With camper numbers declining, Wyldewood needed something to spark new growth and bring excitement back to camp. In 2013, Chad Hudelson was hired as Assistant Director just before camp hit its lowest enrollment in years—537 campers. I remember meeting Chad during counselor training that summer. There were 5-10 of us standing in front of the Dining Hall, waiting on cleaning instructions to get camp ready for summer. I remember wondering how things were going to go for him in his new role as most of us really didn't know him. He began passing out some brooms saying we needed to sweep out Rec 3 so it would be clean for us to worship together as a staff later. After receiving our instructions, we all expected Chad to head back towards the office after giving us our job assignments (to do whatever it is Directors do) but instead he took the last broom and started walking towards Rec 3 with us. I remember the other staff members and I looked at each other as we realized that Chad was going to clean with us. It didn't take long to realize that Chad was going to take the same OF HGHT approach to everything he did at camp.

Over the next five years, Chad continued to practice servant leadership. Never afraid to get his hands dirty, he was always ready to join our summer staff to help clean bathrooms every day during the summer. For this reason and many others, Chad was someone college students loved working with at Wyldewood. His servant leadership boosted staff morale, earning respect and admiration from his employees. With the rise in staff morale, camper numbers began to climb as the Wyldewood camper experience felt the benefits of Chad's servant leadership. Martin Luther King Jr. once said "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

In 2018, Chad was thrust into the Executive Director role as Wyldewood began to face the first of several major challenges under Chad's direction. Not long after, Wyldewood would have its first summer without campers in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite unprecedented challenges, Chad's efforts towards camp's success never slowed. His hard work helped us make significant strides to improve the Wyldewood experience, from program efficiency and completing major construction projects to implementing child safety policies in order to protect our campers and counselors, and so much more.

As his Assistant Director, I witnessed firsthand Chad's dedication to camp's mission day in and day out. Working with Chad was a humbling experience for me. I thought I loved Wyldewood more than anyone, but was outworked by him most days. After working alongside him, I realized that for a long time I loved the ways Wyldewood served me, but because of Chad, I have learned that a true love for Wyldewood was best experienced through service to others.

By August 2024, Wyldewood's numbers had soared as high as 1,117 campers a summer during Chad's time as Director, despite the many difficult situations and obstacles thrown in his way. His focus and dedication to defining the mission of Wyldewood will be felt for years to come. While we are sad to see Chad go, we are excited for the new opportunities that await him in his career with Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program. Angel Tree's mission includes providing camp scholarships to the children of incarcerated parents, including scholarships to Camp Wyldewood.

Please join us in thanking Chad and Leslie Hudelson for their hard work, devotion, and love for Camp Wyldewood's mission. We ask for your prayers as they embark on this new adventure! To honor his example of servant leadership, we are establishing the **Chad Hudelson Servant Leadership Award**, given annually to a staff member who exemplifies selfless leadership through service to others. The winner, chosen by their peers, will receive a bonus as recognition for their impact on the camp community.

Thank you, Chad, for all you've done for Wyldewood, seen and unseen.





CAMP WYLDEWOOD -STAFF- CAMP WYLDEWOOD

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Where Are They Now?

Camp Wyldewood has a way of leaving a lasting impact, with generations of people connected by the experiences they've had here. This year, we're catching up with Alisha Graham, a former counselor and volunteer from the 2000s. Her time at camp helped shape who she is today, and we're excited to hear what she's been up to since then!

What Does Wyldewood Mean To You?

"I worked as a counselor in the summer of 2001 and a team leader in the summer of 2002. Then I volunteered off and on through 2005 and again in 2010. Wyldewood means a lot to me. I met some of my dearest friends while working there. I learned how to find my own faith and beliefs while I was there and what a huge responsibility it is to guide others to Christ."

2008

What is your Favorite Wyldewood Memory?

"I have so many great memories from my time working at camp. It's hard to pick just one. But I always enjoyed the singing on top of Bee rock."

What are some ways you grew as a person during your time at Wyldewood?

"My growth in my own faith and relationship with Christ came during my time at Wyldewood." Wedding day Photo in Wedding fridone (aka G11)! front of Fidone (aka G11)!

What have you been up to since your camp days?

"Since my time at Wyldewood, I worked as a school counselor, adjunct psychology professor, and now a stay at home mom to our 4 kids."

What has it been like sending your own children to camp?

"Our oldest two went to day camp, and I loved hearing how much they enjoyed being there. This coming summer we plan to have our oldest two overnight camp and another in day camp. I like sending them to a place where I don't have to worry about what they are being taught and how the staff was trained. I know everyone who works there is there for the right reasons."



Join us as for summer 2025 as we look at what it means to surrender all to Jesus and learn about what God has surrendered for His people.

Session 1	June 1st-June 6th
Session 2	June 9th-June 13th
Session 3	June 15th-June26th
Session 4	July 6th-July 17th
Session 5	July 20th-July 25th
Session 6	July 27th-August 1st

NEW AT CAMP NEXT SUMMER!

R@LETTS

Group 4: A Night at The Roletts Dress in your Sunday best for an awards banquet like no other!

Group 3: Let's Glow WYLDE Don't forget to pack your neon for a party under the black lights! It's time to Glow WYLDE!





Group 2: Birthday Bash

Since we only get to see each other once a year, for one night and one night only it's EVERYONE'S birthday!

Group 1: Quack Dip Ever wonder what's like to swim with THOUSANDS of rubber ducks? We can't wait for the pool party of the summer at Quack Dip!



But wait, there's more! Introducing Wylde Awake Coffee for Group 4 and the Wyldewood Auction for the whole camp! We can't wait to see you for Summer 2025!







































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2024

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2023 and 2024

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2023 Wyldewood Awards



Latina Dykes Award

Jack and Madolyn Henderson are last year's recipients of the Latina Dykes Giving Heart Award. This award is given to a group, or individuals who support Wyldewood financially. The Hendersons are always quick to offer to cover a variety of costs that camp has. They truly love Wyldewood and show that through their giving hearts.

Hugh and Mildred Groover Award

The Hugh and Mildred Groover award is given to someone who uses their talents as a service to Camp Wyldewood. Last year's recipient was Rebecca Elliot for serving in our kitchen during the summer and for our off season rental groups. We absolutely love "Rebe" (and her famous strawberry cake). Rebe truly knows how to use her gifts to glorify God and for that we are so thankful!





Michael and Shelley Lincoln Award

This award is given to a business or organization who uses their expertise to support Camp Wyldewood. Last year's award was given to All About Graphics. The Poyner Family has always generously helped Wyldewood with our marketing needs. They have assisted us with anything from lines on the new Groover Gym floor, to signs for our golf tournament. We are so thankful for All About Graphics!

John and Gertrude Dykes Award

The John and Gertrude Dykes Award is presented to someone who has shown a life-long commitment to Camp Wyldewood. John's time at camp started as a camper, continued as a summer staff member, and in his adult life, he became our full time Maintenance Supervisor for 10 years. He has put years of work into Wyldewood, and he loves camp with his whole heart. Thank you for all you've done for us John!





Joyce Rushton Award

The Joyce Rushton Award is given to a volunteer who dedicates their time and energy to the campers of Camp Wyldewood. Mindi Goddard has spent several years as our Session 3 nurse, and was beloved by both campers and staff. We are so thankful for her gentle care and love for Wyldewood's campers and mission!



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