* Sam Alexander has blessed our campers at Wyldewood for the last seven years. Each summer Mr. Sam returns to Wyldewood as a volunteer to work with arts and crafts. Mr. Sam works with campers on creating some of the coolest cedar staffs and biggest lanyards you have ever seen.

However, Mr. Sam is so much more than just the craft guy. He is a beloved figure at Wyldewood. Mr. Sam is a wonderful example for our campers, he is kind, compassionate, and generous. Above all, Mr. Sam models determination moreover not letting limitations define you. Doctors diagnosed Mr. Sam with Polio when he was only 14 months old. The terrible disease left him basically paralyzed from the waist down.

Sam first came to Wyldewood as a camper in the summer of 1957 or 1958. He heard Coach Groover worried Sam’s limitations would make it impossible for him to stay as a camper. Coach Groover waited outside the Old Pool House the first Sunday as the young boys changed. One by one the boys came out of the pool house ready to swim. It took Sam somewhat longer than the other boys, eventually, he emerged, walking on his hands then did a flip into the pool. Coach Groover remarked to those around, Sam will be just fine.

Sam has some terrific memories from his time as a camper. He remembers Brother Dykes, the founder of Wyldewood, being a quiet, laid-back man, however someone you listened to when he spoke. Sam remembers cold showers, no electricity in the cabins, campers not being able to wear shorts, plus date night at Harding. One of his most vivid memories is the sound of young children singing praises during hymn time.

Sam continued to camp throughout childhood eventually working in the craft shed during the summers he attended college at Harding. After graduation, Sam moved to Little Rock to attend pharmacy school. Sam worked as a pharmacist in Harrison, AR until his retirement in 2011. Sam and his wife, Jo, still live in Harrison attending the Northside Church of Christ, where Sam serves as an Elder.

After retirement he wanted to help young people grow in their spirituality, Sam thought back to where he grew closer to God as a child, Camp Wyldewood. Today you can still find Sam helping with arts and crafts in Rec 3. Often staying long after arts and crafts are over listening to those young voices sing praises to their Savior while he works with a cedar staff.