

SAYF Worship Journal
March 2013 Retreat
Asheville Friends Meetinghouse

On the weekend of March 22-24, 2013, Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Asheville Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.

Dear SAYF,

This is the second time I've come to the Asheville Friends Meeting. Although the building's pretty small, it is still great and makes the retreat feel more homey. The activities were really fun, and I had a great time playing bear for the first time in my life. The Asheville planning committee did a great job designing the retreat.

SAYF retreats are cool
If only Quakers could rule
'Cause SAYFers are grool

love,
Noah

P.S. Grool is great plus cool.

As an adult in the SAYF community, one of the rewarding things about being here is being able to see the constantly evolving nature of this group. I love how the younger Friends grow into being the elders of the community and watching the leadership develop from year to year. It also excites me to see new Young Friends join the group and within the space of a weekend, become absorbed into the SAYF group and it makes me think of how they will start to blossom into their roles as they grow in the coming years.

This was a very peaceful and joyful retreat. The planning committee did a great job of bringing everyone together, in contemplation and play, that I think suited the overall young and young-spirited group. I think the newbies have so much to bring to the community, I hope all of you come back and become a part of the SAYF evolution in the future.

Love to all, Wren.

P.S. It's interesting how half of the community left before Worship Journals, yet the room we always fit into here is still completely full. This room must have a magic that allows it to expand internally to encompass everyone who enters. Does that sound like SAYF?

As I'm writing this, I'm driving back home. I really wish we could've stayed longer, but I guess other people have commitments. I'll keep it short because I'm kinda tired, but know that I love you all, and I can't wait till the next retreat!

Levi

Yay! Asheville! I liked planning the retreat. I loved going to the lake and having nice weather. Camping will be interesting. After much research, I have found the five symptoms of a SAYF retreat:

- 1. The OH MY GAWD IT'S SOON! This happens within 1-2 weeks of a retreat.**
- 2. The OH MY GAWD IT'S TODAY! This happens the day of the retreat while on the drive/at school.**
- 3. The IT'S HAPPENING! This happens on Friday night – Saturday night.**
- 4. The THE END IS NIGH' This happens on Saturday night and Sunday morning.**
- 5. The IT'S OVER... But , one will be soon! This happens when the retreat ends. And you start counting down the days until the next one.**

- Bye y'all. From Miles

This retreat was a nice gentle one to re-enter SAYF after a few years of rest. It was wonderful to see Young Friends who I knew then as “Newbies” taking leadership role. I did not make a mask myself but enjoyed watching everyone’s unique masks they made. The walk we took last night was really sweet and it helped me relax and be peaceful... The gentle rain this morning and the singing with Asheville Friends are lovely ways to end this retreat. Thank you everyone for bringing yourself – Thank you Asheville SAYFers for organizing and helping run the retreat.

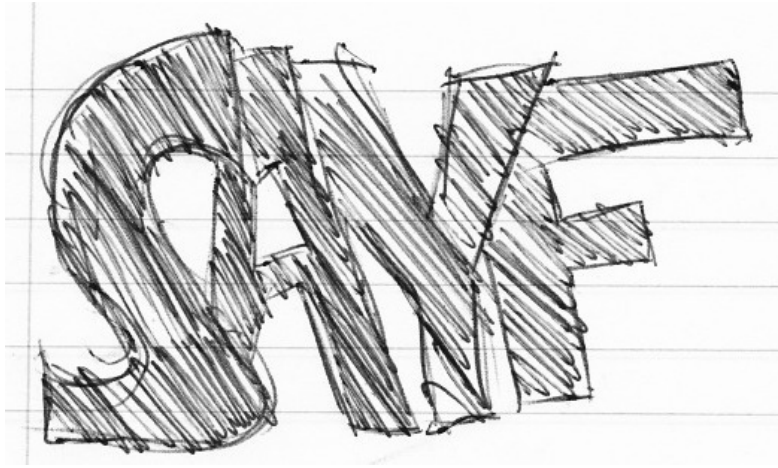
Be present, Mari

This retreat was exactly what I need. Soccer, school, and life in general are just so dang stressful! It was great to relax, hang with friends, and not HAVE to worry about anything. It feels nice being here minus the pain in my ankle. In Atlanta yesterday, it was hailing...oh and happy Spring. What is with this weather?

Well so, my parents almost didn't let me come. I can't imagine being anywhere else. I wish SAYF could last one more day before I go back to the mountains of chores, work, and stress.

Until next time,

Katie



Sorry guys, I had to draw that real big because SAYF is just too Awesome to write regularly.

This SAYF was a really really nice retreat. I got to play music, laugh with friends, play ultimate Frisbee (great game banana slugs!) and I just had a really good time.

To those SAYFers who weren't here, I miss you very much, and to those who were here, I'm going to be missing you very soon. You guys keep me Quakin' and I love you very much.

Sven

A poem about masks:
There once were two people
Like me and you
but one's face was purple
and one's was blue
they were both different
this was true
but they wore masks
so they never knew

*Love is pure where SAYFers go
because SAYFers go where love is known
Love is known where people live
in peace, for love, to help and give.
Love, they do, with all their hearts
for we are more than just our parts.*

-Anonomous

(who can't spell anonymous? anomomouse? anonimous?)

To all SAYFers

When dawn has come
My friends are done
The most difficult thing to be
To be all one and one in all
To know each other without
Masks that we are
Connected as friends; closer than
Holding hands
With one another
Hugs with
I LOVE YOU!
At their center
Without all you
Which means everyone
No one can be excluded
{Cepes me sain} *undecipherable*
And able to hug you back
With the same words you hug me with.

Dear SAYF,

This retreat was pretty great! I loved making masks, playing games, and getting to play ultimate Frisbee and meeting newbies. Newbies, you guys seem cool so come again! I'm excited about graduating but I'm dreading leaving SAYF, so message to all, make the most of each and every retreat. I love you all, and was thrilled that I got to find out at the same time as all of you lovely people that I got 2 scholarships to Warren Wilson! It was a pretty cool experience to share with my favorite people in the world. I love you guys, always & forever.

Sincerely,

Lillian (A.K.A. Mama SAYF)

Dear SAYF,

This was a really good retreat. I got to hang out with so many wonderful Friends and all the activities were just so fun. My favorite parts of this weekend were when Sven got painted blue and Ben got painted purple and had yellow feathers on him, and when we went to the lake. And telling scary stories! The camping retreat is going to be excellent, I am sure of this. When I look at all these wonderful SAYFers, it makes me wonder how there can still be such a thing as hate in this world.

Sincerely,

Connor

This was one of those retreats that couldn't have come at a better time. I needed sayf and this community more than ever recently and, as always, it did not disappoint. I began to realize the true value of being with friends you love and can trust. I stayed up later than I had in a while, I laughed more than I had in a while, and I smiled harder than I had in a while. Seeing Oriana again was amazing, and meeting her great sister was excellent too. Thanks for everything.

Love, Madelyn.

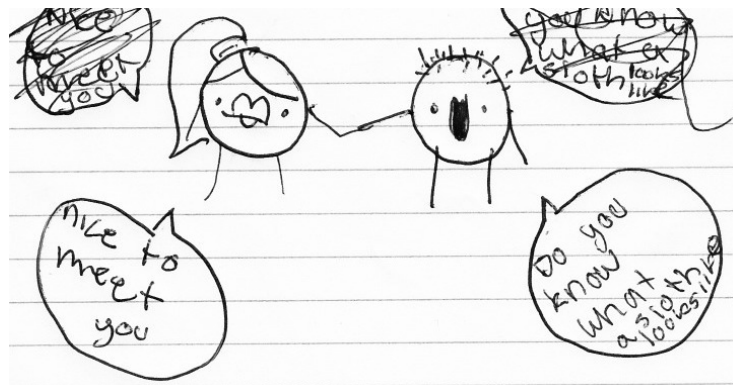
P.s. Don't mount my prostate, bro!

P.p.s If you added one more L... it would be all L's!

p.p.p.s Space mission...Complete!

Even though I'm still a newbie, this is my third retreat but I feel at home no matter where I am as long as I'm at SAYF! I have made new friends and seen new things, but most of all I am finding that I find my self in SAYF. I learn new things everyday (like what a sloth looks like) and I hope to keep learning in SAYF.

-Lorna



This retreat was great. It was just what I needed. Although the ride up felt like twice as long as it actually was, once we got here things were good. I loved opening circle. I think the query was well thought out, and fun to answer and think about. I had a lot of fun playing the Big Wind Blows, although it was kind of hectic. Mask making was interesting as well, but I spent most of that time eating Pez. My favorite time might have been playing ultimate at the lake. Except when I got punched in the face with the Frisbee. Scary stories last night were also lots of fun, and that should happen again around a campfire at the April retreat. See you all then.

Love,
Asa

This retreat was the first time I've really been able to balance everything I wanted to do at SAYF. Going to the lake was really fun, as was making masks (a.k.a painting Sven's face). I love all you newbies, you brought some great energy to the retreat. Thanks to the planning committee and Asheville friends but most importantly, to all of SAYF. Until next time, Pat

I think SAYF is changing. I think the fact that we're gaining newbies means change and us old timers are struggling to hold on to the past.

Our community need care. But I have faith that it will turn out all right because love is the strongest force in the universe.

This retreat was extremely introspective for me. I realized the masks I have. I think I'm closes to my real self at SAYF, but the true me is convinces that everyone should dislike me and I'm unable to do anything right. If I accept compliments or believe good things about myself I'm arrogant. If I don't, I'm attention seeking. The true me is incredibly afraid of everyone around me and loves them at the same time. Perhaps I'm a living paradox. I like that idea. Except if I'm a living paradox then why haven't the pterodactyl monsters come to get me yet?

I'm also afraid of myself.

Grace

Dear SAYF,

Thanks for welcoming me into the community. I really enjoyed the weekend. Making connections with the people I was meeting for the first time and reconnecting with Andrew Wright were particularly cool. Playing Ultimate was also a highlight. Shalom, Tom