

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
**Nurturing/Steering Committee Retreat**  
**February 2015**  
**West Knoxville Friends Meetinghouse**

*On the weekend of February 26-28, 2016, the Nurturing and Steering Committees of the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the West Knoxville Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.*

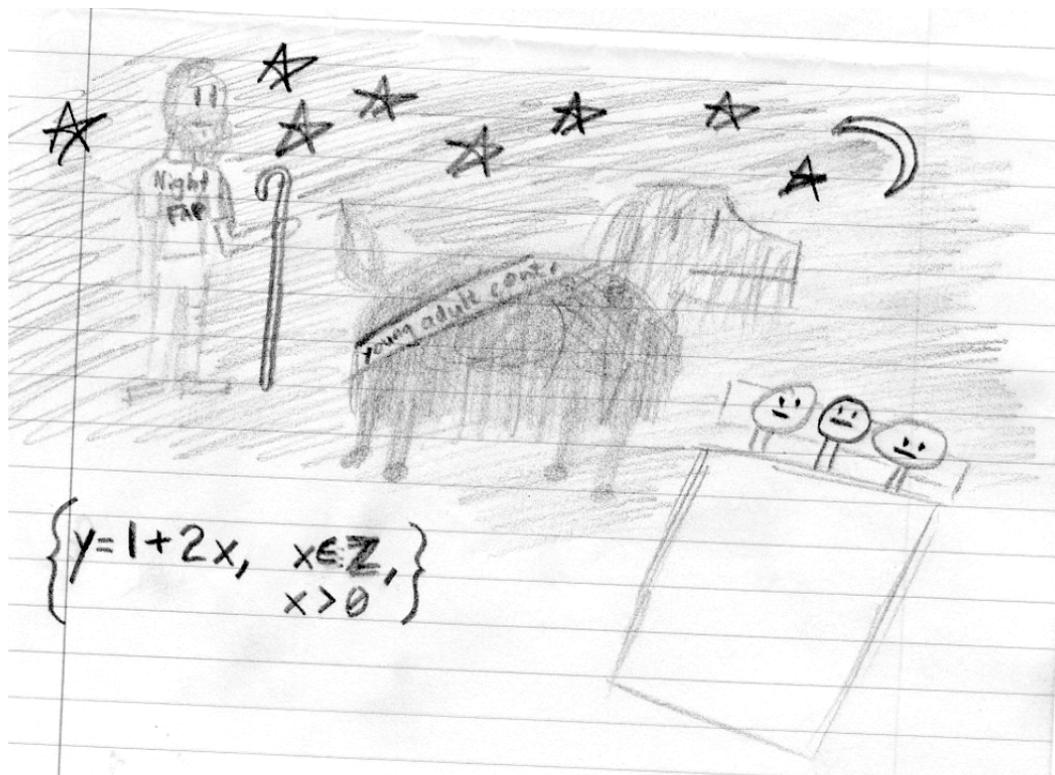
Dear SAYF,

As I continue to move closer towards my inevitable graduation and into my transition into college life, I feel myself drifting away from the SAYF community. This showed itself in my absence from the last few retreats, as I either had reason, or came up with the reasons why I didn't want to go. Only until this retreat was that a thing, as this retreat has revived in me the amazing feelings I feel at SAYF. My past inclinations to drift away were smashed to pieces when I felt the love that radiates from this community once again. I cannot thank you all enough for being so accepting and helping to revive my love once more, even if you didn't know it.

Benjamin

This weekend, a gathering occurred among Friends that happens only twice a year. Over twenty Friends travelled across state lines to spend hours upon hours deliberating over mission-critical questions. After much thought, our most serious question was answered, a question that haunted the Friends for over a year.

Blankets... are ok.



**SAYF Steering/Nurturing and wider community:**

**Thank you again for the profound love you share with this community. Thank you for your commitment. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your sweet smiles and laughter. I feel nourished and nurtured by this community. I love you just the way you are! Both opening circle and a business meeting process all meant a lot to me.**

**Love,  
Mari**

My second nurturing retreat. Some peoples blast. It was so nice. Hey A lot of beautiful moments. A lot of clever ones too. I really enjoyed the size because it allowed everyone to be included. However I have to keep reminding myself to live in the moment because this isn't going to last forever. Things are going to change, and I'll miss this. But at least the memories were golden. You all are even better Nurturers than I thought. I would like to say next try good job to Ruben and Miranda for helping so much during business meeting and this being their first time being nurturers. Sorry for the shout out (but not really that sorry).

This was a nice and very much needed break from life back home. Until next time friends, I love it when you are you.

Julia

STREAM OF CONSCIENTIOUS  
SAYF NC/SC, FEBRUARY 2016

YAC ATTACK!  
ACHING SIDES  
BEAUTIFUL SUNRISE  
BEAUTIFUL SUNSET  
THIN MATTRESS  
VIVID DREAMS  
BURNT BAGELS  
GUTHRIE GUITAR  
HONEST FRIENDS  
CARING FRIENDSHIPS  
WARM HUGS  
QUAKER PROCESS  
LIVELY DISCUSSION  
QUIET WALKS  
COOL NIGHTS  
HOT COFFEE  
NAKED CAKE

- AARON

**I don't feel Steered but certainly feel Nurtured by y'all this retreat.**

**With love,  
Mary Linda**

Dear SAYFers/FANs/Community,

Thank you all for making SAYF possible. Even though, as a FAN, there's quite a bit of work involved, I am rejuvenated with every retreat both in my faith and *joie de vivre*. The teams somehow manage to make Quaker process both productive and uproariously entertaining! (My sides hurt from laughing. I mean, really, how did we manage to solve a blanket problem with the addition of a blanket assigned special duties?!) It's all, and you all, are – simply – brilliant and I love you all! As always, it is a privilege and an honor to serve.

Love,  
Jennifer

*Is there senioritis at SAYF? Not that I see. This seems to be the place where seniors stay engaged, hang on to community, and must be pried away. If only all experiences and groups inspired such loyalty and passion! How can you know you are outgrowing something, yet stay fully present in the moment? I hope we can emulate this gift SAYF gives us in other parts of our lives.*

First of all, I apologize for all the possible grammar mistakes.

Dear SAYF,

I wish I had words to describe how I feel in these weekends. I can be myself, and I know that everybody will accept it, and that feels amazing. I can't believe all the love that I'm experiencing this year. You all are changing me. I'm a new person, thank you, thank you, thank you.

I know I am going to miss this a lot. These exhausting weekends full of laugh, love, and happiness. The word "home" pops out in my head everytime I think about SAYF. Honestly, I think that next year, I am going to give pictures of your faces on broomsticks and I'm going to create my own retreats in Spain. Guys, you are my favourite people in the world.

I love y'all.

Ruben

(Also, the nurturing retreat was awesome, and I loved to see the "other side" of this community, thanks for letting me come with you.)