

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
November, 2016 Retreat  
Asheville Friends Meetinghouse

***On the weekend of November 11-13, 2016, the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Asheville Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.***

**DEAR SAYF,**

**EVER SINCE THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016, SAYF HAS NEVER REALLY BEEN THE SAME. THERE HAVE BEEN HOLES LEFT IN OUR COMMUNITY WE MAY NEVER FILL. BUT MY HEART SWELLS WITH JOY WHENEVER I SEE SOMEONE STEPPING UP TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING THE BIG KIDS. STAY AMAZING EVERYONE.**

**-ERIC**

Dear SAYF,

I just want to say that I LOVE this community, each and every person in SAYF contributes in their own unique way and enriches the experience. I couldn't have wished for a better way to spend my weekend.

- The sexiest one
- Finn

A list of nouns for you all:

Safety pins  
lantern in a bottle  
chapstick with a yellow cap  
sharing sweaters

Lily's lovely drawings of birds  
decorated stones  
paper towel tissues  
vinegar in the cabinet  
Eric's avocado socey  
Bear

welcome to SAYF, Sadarathi, Lily x 2, Prakash, and Annie. This was a great retreat. I loved every minute of it.

The cozy wooden rooms

Massage trains

Ricky Baker

It's pretty cool to be in a room with a lot of people when no one is talking. You are all so wonderful.

I will miss you each. Happy Birthday, Finn! wonderful people. I've loved the conversations I had here, ranging from sexuality to Germany to ways to hold a pencil, to tattoos. Thanks for being such a special group of people. Love, Ella

I'm sorry that I don't show up enough. 3-4 retreats a year doesn't feel good enough for you people. I can't believe that I only have one year left of Sayf. I want everyone to know I love them very much. See you all in March (I think/hope).

- 5280

This is about to get really cheesy, but I'm fine with it. I've never talked to people so easily. Everyone is extremely loving and amazing humans. I've heard a lot about SAYF, but it's like 10x better than I thought. I'm very glad I was able to be a part of it.

-Lily O :)

I really don't know what to say except thank you. Having SAYF is what gets me through the years. I'm so thankful to be a part of this because the friends made here can be with you for the rest of your life. And that's really the greatest thing I could ask for. I'll be missing you till I see you next.

Your friend,  
Mama

SAYF also known as Julia Hudson

I liked the tree. - Jacob Yee-yee

I've found the more I come to Sayf the more I love it. This retreat especially, I feel really carefree and accepted. The last two retreats were a little weird and stressful for me, but it feels as if all the love I wasn't picking up on was just compressed down into the past two days. I love every last one of you. (Oh, and I've got dibs on Phillip)  
- Callum

Hi! I'm fairly new to SAYF and I adore every minute I spend with you guys. You are all so wonderful, and you put up with me, which is super awesome too. You guys take the "aggressively welcoming" thing very serious and were exactly that way to me when I came to SAYF for the first time versus this time. I hope to make many new and wonderful memories with you. All over the next retreats and such. I LOVE YOU!!

- Mars

I know I don't come anymore and I might not be showin' the love . But I love all my S.A.Y.F.ers. I hope you all keep my community safe and welcoming. "It's Jammed packed" Yaaaaa! < only the real understand anyways. Love you guys.

- Sarawila

Yoi,

This SAYF was "chill my dude", despite all the unironically barf moments. I had a neat time with everyone, and left my Nalgene at the Botanical Gardens. RIP. There were a few social issues, sure, but they were resolved. Thanks for a great retreat friends. I know we all needed it.

P.S. That's lowkey barf

P.P.S. Follow "Preteens" on Spotify

- Your main squeeze,  
Alden

Also, I'm probably going to get bullied for the slit. Worth it.

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**I made an Amazing poem,  
SAYF'S Lit  
SAYF Makes life lit  
You make SAYF Lit.**

:)

I have trouble telling people about SAYF because I feel that my description will never do it justice. I end up rambling and having to sit all of the, “y’all must eat a lot of oatmeal” jokes, but never really feel like they understand just how much this community has changed my life. I want to give them a way to feel the joy I feel while skipping at full speed down a hill with my arms linked to someone and a stupidly large smile on my face. I want them to feel as cozy as I felt while sitting all bundled up on the steps and sipping tea. Mostly, I just want them to be able to feel how strong the love in my heart is for you all. It’s almost ridiculous the amount of gratitude, admiration, and love I store in my heart for you all. The memories I’ve made while at SAYF have been some of the best. Actually, the best.

I love you all. < and I mean that so much. LOVE, Cora

Dear SAYF,

I’ve been involved with this community since Finn was a baby. He came with me to the first retreat I attended - in this meetinghouse in 2003. He has literally grown up in SAYF and I am so grateful.

I love this community with my mamaheart. Each year when SAYFers graduate, I mourn a little because I’ve grown to care for my kids so much but then a couple of months into the next year, I am feeling like all the newbies fit in and that every kids is mine. I love each of you and I love you all.

Mary Linda