

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
**September, 2017**  
**Camp Ridge Haven, Brevard, NC**

*On September 8-10, 2017, the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at Camp Ridge Haven, Brevard, NC. This is our witness. This is our story.*

Dear SAYF,

I am always blown away at the level of kindness and maturity that is shown by everyone in the community. Considering that I am coming from Middle School, this is not saying a lot, but nevertheless I have more fun here than I do practically anywhere else. From Lil' Oats dominating the activities to the red team's Raz victory to my own blood being spilled on the ga-ga-ball court, as well as becoming an ultimate ping-pong (and basketball) master, it is safe to say that my time was extremely well spent. This is only my third retreat but I already feel like I belong here. Thank you all for making this community so unique and incredible.

Sincerely, Oliver

Dear SAYF,

I'm not really sure what to say. This retreat was definitely different without the graduates, and with all the newcomers. The fishbowl was incredible, and all the outdoor activities were amazing. I can't explain how much you guys mean to me. Stay awesome always or at least until I see you next.

Much love, Marissa

P.S. Please hold my family in the light. They are in the direct path of Irma.

Dear SAYF community,

This might be the smallest group of SAYFers that I've seen at a retreat. It was nice to get to know people more personally. Thank you nurturers for reaching out to the newbies. Ridge Haven was quiet and peaceful and the weather was so perfect for all our outdoor activities. Some games were pretty competitive but with fun challenges I enjoyed them all.

As we go in our own direction to school, to work, to homelife, to swim practice, to dance classes, to friends and families, may we continue to laugh, smile listen and breathe.

All my love, Mari

SAYF,

Every retreat is different for me; this has been true since I started SAYF oh so long ago. Each retreat brings its own "zest" if you will, to the entire SAYF experience. I've been in love with SAYF since my first retreat, but recently have been losing sight of how truly important that love has been in my life. My zest has been less zesty, and that's never a good thing. BUT...this retreat brought it all back. We danced, we laughed, we ping ponged, we swam, hiked, played, climbed and a whole lot more. I felt like a new SAYFer this retreat; experiencing the joy and wonder of this community as if it was new to me. I love you guys lots. Thanks for being so zesty.

Cora

SAYF,

This weekend was pretty great. I had a lot of fun with everyone. Going hiking, becoming benevolent gods of ants, and watching the teamwork everyone used at the 12 foot wall are just a few highlights of this SAYF. Shoutout to Tallulah for playing some sick jams, Rufus for bringing a hammock, Lucas and Patrick for providing plenty of entertainment, Matilda, V and Sadie for making such delicious cakes, Scout the puppy for accompanying us on our adventures, Jennifer for making a delicious stew, and all the newbies for being so happy and cheerful and ready for anything. Y'all are awesome.

Dear SAYF,

Thank you for one of the best retreats in a really long time! I feel like the vibe this weekend was very balanced and everyone was getting along beautifully. On several occasions I witnessed SAYFers old and new having such genuine fun and because of that my heart is fuller than it's been in quite a while. At this point, I spend an awful lot of my time fretting about how I'm doing at growing up, but this retreat really put me at ease. The fishbowl especially was very powerful for me and it's quite comforting to hear that people you admire have the same questions as you. In any case, I'm feeling content and thankful and ready to take in every little thing that my senior year has in store. I have so much love for every single individual one of you. Thanks for being you,

Evangeline

Dear Friends,

I feel like a million bucks! This retreat was just spectacular! I really missed everyone a whole bunch. I am so happy you all came! There are many friends whom were missing (like Jonas) but regardless, this was just super. I really enjoyed the physical activities, though they were quite tiring. I felt really good. I had a lot of emotions to get out, and that was good. What am I ever writing. I'm not even paying attention. That's probably a sign I should say until next month,  
Love a whole lot, Kenya Clo

**IT PAINS MY HEART TO THINK THAT I WON'T SEE ALL OF YOU BEAUTIFUL, AMAZING PEOPLE FOR AT LEAST A MONTH. WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE HOW MUCH YOU ALL MEAN TO ME, I LOVE EVERY ONE OF YOU SO MUCH THAT IT MAKES MY HEART WANT TO BURST. SEE YA GUYS AT THE NEXT RETREAT.**

- **WITH MUCH LOVE, DAVID MYERS**
- **P.S. STAY CHILL HOME-SKILLET**

Felt dense with love like rose quartz.  
V

I am so pleased by this retreat. I witnessed nothing but love and kindness among you all. Each one of you are so valuable to this community and I wish to get to see you grown through the years when I come back and visit. I'm so excited to see what next time brings. So until we meet again, take good care of yourself.

With all the love I can give,  
Mama SAYF

Dear SAYF,

This was my first SAYF and I love it with all my heart. I made so many connections right away. I felt so welcome with everyone. I am so glad to be part of this wonderful thing, and I love everything about this. I can't really express how great this retreat was. I usually don't talk to new people and this was great for me to learn how to reach out and meet new people. This was my first SAYF but I feel like this is my home and this is where I belong. Thank you SAYF.

Aslan Clo

Dear SAYF,

The intersection of joy and the future of the Friends community can be witnessed in all its glory at a SAYF retreat. Sometimes we can be less than perfect, but we always pull together and make these weekends a place to play, learn and love - and a haven from our fast-paced, stressful lives. Thank you all, teens, FANs, Steering, parents, and the wider Friend community for making SAYF possible. Each of these weekends deepens my connection and commitment to this spirit-led delight.

Love, Jennifer Chapman  
P.S. I Think You're Freaky and I Like You Lot :).

I've been FANning for 12 years; seeing SAYFers come in all shy and uncertain and watching them grown into secure and nurturing young adults. Sadie joining us for this retreat brings

this home for me. We have had Steering/Nurturing Committee retreats at her meetinghouse over the years.

At the end of those retreats during of after closing circle, Sadie and one or two other children would visit with us and we'd always say how we looked forward to them becoming SAYFers. And now she is! This song came to mind this morning:

May God bless and keep you always.  
May your wishes all come true.  
May you always do for others,  
And let others do for you.  
May you build a ladder to the stars,  
And climb on every rung.  
And may you stay forever young.

With love, Mary Linda