

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
April 2018 Retreat  
Durham Friends Meetinghouse

*On the weekend of April 13-15, 2018, the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Durham Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.*

April Durham Retreat 2018

Dear SAYFers,

Even with so much going on, I really do like going to SAYF and I'm very pleased with myself for coming to a retreat full of such precious and radiant others. SAYF is one of those places where even if I just sit back and observe, I am filled with love and appreciation for the honest good that every single person possesses, and then manifests, at SAYF.

Part of Quaker testimony is seeing the light in every single person; It's now that I'm realizing that growing up in the SAYF community has played such a significant role in developing that facet of my spirituality.

Given that this is the last retreat for our seniors, I should mention that y'all are people that I look up to and love a lot. You all are going to great things, and you deserve the world.

- Tallulah

Dear SAYF,

Thank you, all you lovely people! You restore my hope for the future. Thank you to all our Night Shepherds, our guest presenters, our workshop leaders, planners, drivers, FANs, parents, piano players, and dance party participants. Y'all can move! (By the way, it isn't a good retreat until a disco ball gets broken. :) To our upcoming grads, we love you. You'll always have this time and these people. Stay in touch with them - you never know what will happen if you keep these lovelies in your life. Thanks to each of you for a great retreat!!

Love,  
Jennifer Chapman

P.S. Thanks to my fellow silent hikers. Next to the dancing - favorite part of the weekend.

This is pretty much the only epistle I've written. This retreat was fun, but it went by super fast, and we're missing a lot of people. I really hope to see you all at SAYMA, as well as the people who couldn't come to this retreat. It's odd to think that I'm leaving, because I remember being fairly new to SAYF so well, I imagine other seniors feel the same way. Leaving will be sad, but I know you youngins will step up to take care of SAYF and keep the traditions. I hope to see you all again at SAYMA - a senior citizen (Patrick)

Dear SAYF,

It's hard to believe that this year is almost over - SAYF-wise, anyway. I've gotten so much out of the retreats since I started coming. I'll miss you all, and I can't wait for the next retreat.

Love, Sadie



Dear SAYFers,

I had such a blast with my fellow SAYFers this weekend! Props to Durham for organizing this LIT AF retreat! SAYF is a really SAYF space, so I get to be myself. Sometimes I get picked on and bullied at home and at school for the way I look, but when I'm at SAYF, all you LIT friends make me feel so SAYF. I wish this weekend didn't have to end. Sometimes I wish everywhere was as SAYF as SAYF is. You're all sexylishis and I love SAYF. SAYF SAYF SAYF, I love SAYF. SAYF----SAYF SAYF is my place.

- A good friend

Lit AF

Dear SAYF,

This retreat was AMAZING! I've had so much fun with all of you, and it pains my soul to say goodbye. It's hard to imagine that this is some of y'all's last retreat. You guys have made me so happy! From the river, to the Dance party, this may have been the best retreat I've been to. Love you guys, especially the soon to be graduates.

Stay awesome always, or at least until I see yo next.

Marissa

Dear SAYF,

It's been so nice just to detach from the world a bit, and relax with you amazing people. I'm so glad we all got to experience this amazing retreat, and I'm so glad I got to see you all again. Hopefully I'll see you all again at SAYMA. Until then, stay as amazing as you already are.

- Maggie

Dear SAYF,

First and foremost I would like to apologize for any inconvenience I may have caused by being sick; secondly, I would like to thank all of the FANs, and those who stayed with me while I was sick, for doing so. Thirdly, the river was the coolest thing ever.

- Your one and only (?)\*

Jacob Jude Mixson

\*there might be clones or something, just gotta make sure

Dear SAYF,

My final retreat has officially come and gone. In just two years, this odd bunch of Quaker teens has given me a community stronger than I've ever known. I hope one day I can show you just how grateful I am for you all. On the way to the Eno in Jennifer's mini Cooper, we had all of the windows down, and I was watching the trees pass by trying to slow down time as much as I could. How lucky am I that I have the memory of that car ride and the thousands more memories y'all have given me to look back on whenever I want. Even though I was unsuccessful in slowing down time and this retreat breezed by like they all do, I'll never forget a minute of it. I have no idea what to say. Words can't do y'all justice. You make me who I am and I love every single one of you very very much.

Last one, Best one  
Until June,  
Evangeline

Dear SAYF,

Yes another retreat of takis and doin' it to em. It's hard to believe this is my last epistle and my last time at SAYF. I've been coming since Nov. of 2016 and it feels like such a short amount of time. The sleeping under the stars, the bumping the aux, the morning walks to whatever adventure is planned from the dance parties, and hiding from bears are all memories I am grateful to have experienced. I have gotten some amazing friends from SAYF that I know I will keep being friends with after graduation. I also got some incredible growth here. Thanks to you all, it has been awesome.

Annie G,  
President of the busted lip gang

Dear SAYF,

This was my first retreat. I came out of it with blisters on my feet, more tired than I've felt in a long time, and probably carrying Jacob's stomach flu.

Let me say, it was definitely worth it. The sense of community and companionship found here was striking. I rarely find a group of people who will so happily accept a newcomer to their dynamics, even if that newcomer is a stranger to many or all of them.

I look forward to the next time I come here.

Peace,  
Henry