

SAYF Worship Journal

March 2019 Retreat

Arthur Morgan School and Celo Friends Meetinghouse

On the weekend of Mach 22-24, 2019, the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Arthur Morgan School and Celo Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.

THE WORLD IS SO DENSE WITH EXPERIENCES. EVERYONE HAS CITIES AND FORESTS AND MOUNTAINS AND COMMUNITIES AND PAINTINGS AND OCEANS AND COLLEGES TO SEE. WE'RE ALL STRUNG TOGETHER IN OUR EXPLORATION OF THESE BEAUTIES. THEY SPREAD US THIN SOMETIMES, ACROSS STATES OR CONTINENTS, AND YET WE'RE STILL ON THE SAME JOURNEY FINDING WHAT TO MAKE OF LIFE AND LOOKING WITH SUCH MOTIVATION AND VIGOR FOR LITTLE MOMENTS THAT TEACH US MORE ABOUT HOW LOVE FEELS. AS MUCH AS IT'S INSPIRING TO LOOK AT THE GREAT BIG JOURNEY WE'RE ON, IT DOESN'T SUCK ANY LESS THAT WE HAVE JUST A LITTLE TIME IN THIS SPACE. SAYF IS ONE OF A KIND, TAKE CARE OF IT, LOVE IT FOR WHAT IT IS, AND SOAK UP EVERY SECOND SITTING IN THIS ROOM AT THIS TIME WITH THESE GREAT PEOPLE.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE MY CHIPS BE IN THE FUTURE, WHAT DEAL THE SAYER MAY CUT, OR HOW MANY DAYS A WEEK THE DOG PARK WILL BE OPEN, BUT I'M GLAD MY CHIPS ARE HERE NOW.

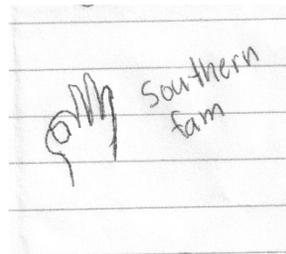
- CALLUM DOOLEY

Dear SAYF,

This retreat was a really good one (well all the retreats are always good but this one specifically right now). The backdrop of beautiful camp Celo and all the mountains was really something and getting to spend so much time outside, whether during our steep hike, or playing in the sun at the top of the mountain, or roasting marshmallows in the fire, or laying on the slab looking at the stars, or messing around with skateboards, or countless other things was just so amazing. I felt like I really connected to people this retreat, with the exercise we did on Saturday, and I also want I love how SAYF is such an honest, supportive community.

Love you all,

Maggie



Dear SAYF Community,

Thank you everyone for driving through the winding mountain road through a wind storm to be a Celo SAYF Retreat! Special thank-you to Cora, Marissa, Jacob, and Jonas for planning the retreat! It is always so fun to prepare the retreat thinking how SAYFers will enjoy and take part of the weekend. I am thankful for the AMS community, Celo Friends Meeting for their support. I am glad that we were able to be together.

**Lots of Love
Mari**

The hike up sweating
Cold wind on Strawberry fields
All our cheeks sunburned
* * *

In the frigid wind
little boy's winter hat like
a spring strawberry

3/24/19
Robert Sears

3/25/19

My favorite moment of the retreat was just a few people around the bonfire at the end of the night, listening to Robert and Carlton sing songs in the round.

I also really enjoyed working in the kitchen making sushi and miso soup.

I loved seeing everyone work together and being kind to each other.

- Danielle, FAN

SAYF,

This was an amazing retreat and Celo is still my favorite SAYF destination. Sushi making was a lot of fun, and I learned a lot about it. 10 out of 10. Also, I go to pet a cow.

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

- Marissa

Dear SAYF,

I thought I'd let everybody know just how much I enjoyed this SAYF. This retreat made me very aware of the people I was with and I feel like I bonded with some people that I never got to (I'm looking at you, at other retreats, Oliver. Let's flood this town!) I very much enjoyed the hike. The river was stunning. The activity on the slab made me the slightest bit awkward. I suppose I just never knew how hard it was for me to really look somebody in the eye. I suppose that all I can say is thank you all. You're helping to build me.



Ollive (NOTE: Could be "Ollie". Hard to read. Please forgive.)

As I am at a loss as to what I'll say about this SAYF, I'll instead smush it all down into a number list of memories.

- 1) Taking Wasabi-slathered sushi with Lu and Eli
- 2) With great scientific discussion, deciding that a group of Ollies is called a flood
- 3) Somehow not losing Lucas' frisbee on the mountain top
- 4) Making the Thickest pancakes ever for breakfast
- 5) The bean closest and its numerous precarious knives
- 6) Discussing the implications of... I think his name was Prudon... anyway, discussing the implications of that person's proposed economic system
- 7) The treehouse that was 100% structurally sound, no shaking stairs or anything creaking when walking inside
- 8) Creating an infinity looped 3-step handshake
- 9) The gorgeous view of the mountains from Strawberry fields
- 10) "If it's told, it's out of my dog park," "There are two ways to put skin on a cat," "It's not the sayer's deal," among other incredible created idioms
- 11) Semi-successfully riding the weird wiggle skateboard

So, am I back to SAYFing again? I guess you'll have to wait and see for next time. All I'm saying is, I think you know where my chips are at.

With much love,

Oliver

Dear SAYF,

3-24-19

It's kind of funny, it's only my second time coming to SAYF but it feels so different from the first time. I feel like the first one was kind of confusing and a little stressful for me since I didn't know anyone. This time it felt more calm. It's nice because it's always been hard for me to find somewhere where I feel like I fit in in any way. But when I came to SAYF it felt so welcoming and like I actually fit in. All the people here are so chill and fun. It's sad because so many amazing people will be leaving soon and I barely got a chance to even meet them.



Stobby, eef, freef