

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
**SAYF at SAYMA**  
**June, 2019**  
**Warren Wilson College**

*On June 13-16, 2019 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Yearly Gathering of SAYMA, at Warren Wilson College. This is our witness. This is our story.*

I've been so scared of the uncertainty that lays past this weekend and this stage of my life. As I've grown up through so much confusion and loneliness and some weird complexes built around being and oldie in a stressed out underclassmens skull, I've put a lot of my hope on a group of friends (inside SAYF and out) that would graduate on to new adventures before me. But that fear has been hushed by a greater faith that I've been finding for years and that I felt run through me all the way down through the Earth. A faith that I'm cut out for the world, that I'm fully able to manifest connections to others and to the world and that yall will always be with me, in the same room or in my heart. And yall graduates have taught me not just through your Love, but through the bomb ass lives I see you building for yourselves. Shout out to Lucas, Cora, and Jonas for being the absolute realest homies ever for the longest. I hope to see you all so soon.

- Callum

This SAYMA has been amazing. Saying hello to new friends and goodbye to old friends, it was definitely emotional. 3 years ago I came to SAYF for the first time, and I never thought I'd make the connections and relationships I have now. I'm so grateful to know you all, and I'll miss you all so much, especially the graduates.

Love Yall  
Stay awesome always  
Or at least until I see you next

- Marissa

I have said the things that need to be said I have done all the things that need to be done. I am happy. I am sad but I am happy. I'm grateful for an opportunity that arose so many years ago. I recognize it's my time to go but I wish it wasn't so. I close with nothing but a simple thank you. Thank you for everything.

With eternal love,  
- Jonas

SAYF,

Over the years, I've wanted to draft my final SAYF epistle, so that in the moment, I wouldn't leave anything out. I never acted on this desire because I know that part of the beauty of this transition is that I will always be remembering new things to be thankful for. There is no way that I could begin to put down on paper the ways that I have been supported by this community. It is comforting to know that my lasts are someone else's firsts - someone's first SAYMA, first epistle, first SAYF. I am so grateful to have grown with you all during the time between my first and my last.

With all my love, Cora

As I come to the end of another year  
I write a SAYF rap for every ear to hear  
So many memories, so many faces  
I know everyone here is going to great places  
Working on a farm in the middle of city  
Choppin down the kudzoo was real litty  
Walking through the gardens, stepping on stones  
As long as I'm here I know I'll never feel alone  
Playing frisbee on top of a big rock  
In this community happiness seems to flock  
Once again hearing the cook-out employee say nugget  
As you'll remember, there isn't much one can rhyme with nugget  
Cuddling until I feel like I'm flying  
Emma blows out her candle and I start crying  
I really don't want to see my friends leave  
Constant text-message-checkups they will receive  
SAYF is better than any possible high  
Every year goes by in the blink of an eye  
Writing another poem brings to my eye a tear  
Thank you all, for another damn good year.

- *LW* KHAMALA

SAYMA  
June 16 2019

I am not yet strong enough mentally or emotionally to share during graduation, so this one goes out to the grads.

Emma - you're so, so beautiful. We haven't spent a lot of time together, but you've always been such a role model to me.

Lucas - I love you, you big, awesome, goofy soul. I'll never forget how welcome you made me feel at sayf and your wonderful smile will stay with me forever.

Finn - I also haven't spent a lot of time with you, but you're cool. af. I wish I got to see you more.

Jonas - You're so nice. I wish I had come to sayf earlier so I could've met you sooner than last year.

Nanseera - the talent you have is something I feel like I'll never meet. Maybe someday. But I'm okay with you having all that beautiful, beautiful person in you because you deserve it.

Cora - I wish I were as pretty as you. You're just wonderful to be around, even though we haven't talked much. I love you.

I love all of you, awesome, phenomenal people. Stay gorgeous.

Eli

Dear SAYF Community,

Oh wow, this SAYMA was a big blow to my heart. Every year it feels like SAYF will never be the same, and that is true, but change can be a beautiful thing. That doesn't mean it doesn't hurt to see some of my favorite people say goodbye. Aside from the sad goodbyes, this was a calm and wonderful retreat. I'm not sure how often I will be coming to SAYF anymore, but this community of friends will always be what broke me out of my shy shell. This is starting to sound like a graduation speech, but I promise, this is not goodbye. I love you all so much from the bottom of my heart.

- Aslan

I've spent too much time making that comic on the back, I'm worried I don't have enough time to get everything out that I want to. I have so many emotions that I feel, so for me, the classic Oliver-style list won't suit me today. Instead, I'll present to you my magnificent haiku, I hope it'll live up to a true poetic glory.

"Lying on the couch, Hands clasped firmly together  
(Frost on windowpane)"

-Oliver Danger Wingate, 1673

Comic on back to be read/performed (?) first, before this part

This SAYMA reminded me of how breathtakingly kind this community can be. Almost every single reason that I had stopped coming to SAYF seemed to be non-existent with the generation that seemingly appeared in my absence. This last part is for y'all, cherish and love this community and don't let yourself fall out with it.

- Finn McKinney

P.S. Honestly, do whatever you want, tis Just advice.

Hey SAYFer,

That's right, I'm talking about you. I want you to close your eyes. Every single one of you- well, not whose reading this, but everyone else. Are they closed yet? No peeking. Alright. Did you hear the cars saying goodbye to each other? Do you smell a little of the mulch? Freshly turned over from 3 days of intense SAYFing? Can you feel the history here?

You, and everyone around you, chose to be here today. You didn't have to make that choice, and if no one did, SAYF wouldn't exist. SAYf is just a big, miraculous coincidence, a bunch of people all saying, "mmh, why not?" at the same time. Magically, this coincidence has lasted for decades.

OK, you can open them now. It's a fragile coincidence, and it's a fragile choice, but I have no doubt it will be made again and again and again.

- Lucas

- And Jonas (sort of)

Dear SAYF,

I am gonna miss all the graduates but I know that each and every one of you are gonna do great and amazing things and I will miss seeing you all at sayf. Love you all so much,

Love Sun Shine Wilton

It's gonna be hard not seeing Jonas and Lucas at SAYF anymore. And all of the graduates too. I am gonna really miss you all so much. SAYF Family Forever. I love you all so much.

*Dear SAYF,*

*Over the six years I've been a part of this community I've only felt lead to write an epistle on two occasions, this is one of them. Now that I'm joining the ranks of YAF-dom I feel lead to speak to the community as a SAYFer one last time. I feel good passing the torch along to this younger generation of SAYF, who seem to be further along their spiritual journey than I was at their age and I know SAYF will thrive in their hands. To my fellow graduates, I'm so grateful to have grown up with y'all and begin the next chapter of my life with y'all at my side. And yes I know we're not supposed to do shoutouts, but I'm going to anyway:*

*Maddie: You seem super cool and I hope SAYF will love you the way you deserve.*

*Cora: I can't imagine my life without you as well as this journey*

*Carmella: You're beautiful, I see a lot of myself in you and I hope that SAYF can be a second home to you.*

*Callum Dooley: TBH You're one of the coolest people I've ever met and I'm so grateful for your friendship*

*Henry: You're wise beyond your years*

*Lu: I'm proud of you.*

*The Clo sisters: Thank you for being a joyous radiant light*

*Nanseera: girl you got it going on!*

*Mandy: Words can't express how much our friendship means to me and how much I love you!*

*Lucas: Thank you for always being there*

*Jonas: Thank you for being a role model and pillar of SAYF, I aspire to be more like you.*

*To ALL of SAYF: I love you more than you'll ever know.*

*Love you forever,*

*EMMA*