

SAYF Worship Journal
February 2020 Retreat
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meetinghouse

On the weekend of February 28-March 1 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.

Cuddles are better than math homework. I don't know about business meetings, but I'm glad to be involved in creating and continuing this beautiful community. Every time a new SAYFer comes back the next retreat and says, "You know, when I first came here this was not at all what I expected to find, but I love all you guys so much now," it shows us that we're doing our jobs.

So...when I first came to SAYF in August 2017, I wasn't expecting to find what I have now. I was anxious that everyone would be very religious, and as I wasn't quite sure what I believed yet (and I'm still not) I was sure I would be uncomfortable. Instead, I found the most kind and welcoming group of people. They have taught me how to be myself, how to be inclusive, how to be honest, how to create safe spaces with everyone I talk to. I value you all and this community so much, and I'm so f*cking grateful that this is how I get to grow up.

Love,

Sadie

Nurturing can be hard work. Steering, or perhaps more guiding, can be hard work. Supporting can be hard work. And yet the work has rewards, to those who do it, and hopefully even more to the larger community.

It is nice to be at a Retreat where I was able to learn everyone's name!

- Sig

Dear SAYF,
from the window seat with friends,
to the cold, cold porch at night with
more,
this meeting house holds more value
with it every time we stay here.
from the snowy mountain peaks,
to the frozen, frozen flowers,
thank you for letting me be a part of
your adventure.
from the bodies in close-quarters,
to the numb, numb fingers plucking
the strings of my guitar,
in this so-called valley,
I am home.
In this so-called valley I am home.

- Thank you for everything & stay beautiful, Eliana Saderholm :)

Sleeping on hard floors with
questionable bedding
Eating Oreos and Lucky Charms
My head band stolen by my son
Innumerable times
Stiff back, groggy eyes, achy knees
Laughter bubbling up always
Card games
Gratitude, worship
Tears
These are the precious memories
of an Adult FAN.

Beth Myers

