

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
November 2021 Retreat  
Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse

***On the weekend of November 14-16, 2021 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at Berea Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.***

Dear SAYF,

Kentucky is cold! Thought we should acknowledge that before I move on, because I'm having trouble putting into words what I want to say. I've been feeling a little upside-down this past week, and the blankets + campfires + love have been a great comfort. SAYF brings out a side of me that is more secure and less anxious than I typically am. It's nice to come back after a year-and-a-half and be reminded of that. Thank you for growing up with me. Let's bring a space heater next time.

ily, Sadie

Dear SAYF,

I felt some genuine happiness and relaxation at this retreat, which I think was very much needed. You are all as lovely of people as ever, and it was great to see old friends and meet some new. I still have all my hair, and Frosty the snowmobile was a true modern masterpiece, so I'd call this retreat a definite success.

- Maggie



Dear SAYF:

It has been a joy to re-visit Berea after a long and unwelcome hiatus. Expanding that joy was working with amazing alumni as FAN peers and colleagues instead of charges. So wonderful to see the Young Friends of prior SAYF communities returning to serve new generations as Young Adults.

Another joy for this weekend was seeing so many Friends engaging in games of chess and backgammon and other friendly forms of competition. A big pleasure was being able to introduce a couple of SAYFers to the fun of backgammon! I'm proof that no good deed goes unpunished, they then proceeded to beat me soundly at my favorite game!

Le Sigh, Aaron

Dear SAYF,

I am getting closer and closer to graduating every retreat. It is wonderful to see the slow trickle of new SAYFers join our community. I leave every retreat in comfort knowing we will pass SAYF off to a wonderful group of people. Anyways, my contribution as expected...



Bread, wreaths & butter  
songs in the darkness and cold  
all warmed by the fire  
- Robert S.

Dear SAYF,

I will not be coming again, this is my last retreat. I cannot believe you animals eat ice cream with forks. Get out while you still can. Just joking, love you all, see you next time Maybe, Walker

Dear SAYF,

Involving myself with friends continues to be without a doubt the best decision I've ever made. It's been 11 years since I first rolled up in a 15 passenger van to the Asheville meetinghouse. 6 since I blew out my candle and got whisked away into adulthood by the YAFs before me. Much has changed, our world is a much darker place. I have changed, both as a person and as a Friend. Some might say I'm more wise, but I choose to think of it like an antique store, I've just gathered more trinkets and dust.

You all have changed. I recognize a few faces, but the interweaving threads of love and kindness I see before me are foreign now. That's okay, it is your tapestry and it is beautiful, just the same as mine was.

I urge you to look around at each other Young Friends. You may not feel it but this community is filled with love, intention, kindness and no shortage of intelligence and talent. I didn't know it at the time. Perhaps I didn't even know it until I drove down here on Friday, but just being here you are learning things that can be taught in no other way. SAYF teaches us to be cultivators of community. A special kind of community that is unfortunately in dangerously short supply. Even among Quakers.

Friends, I am so proud of you. You have warmed my heart and eased my anxieties. I have nothing but faith in you, and I cannot wait to see what you will do next.

"The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief it perhaps grows the greater" - Mithrandir

~ SVEN

Dear SAYF,

I enjoyed the SAYF retreat this weekend. Some of my favorite parts of this SAYF weekend were having a bonfire, making candy apples and bread and butter. I am happy I got to see Marissa, it's been so long since I have seen her. My second favorite part about SAYF was some of you all may not know I can actually sing really well. I was so happy to sing for Nancy. Maybe one day at SAYF I could sing for you all before I graduate. I will warn you I will probably be nervous and shaking cause I have never sung in front of a lot of people before. So maybe I could just sing in front of you all on the last SAYF retreat. I didn't even know I could sing that well until I started listening to country music. So I would be happy to sing for you all if you want me to.

Love, Sun Shine Wilton

SAYF will always be my home forever