

SAYF Worship Journal
March 2022 Retreat
Arthur Morgan School, Celso, NC

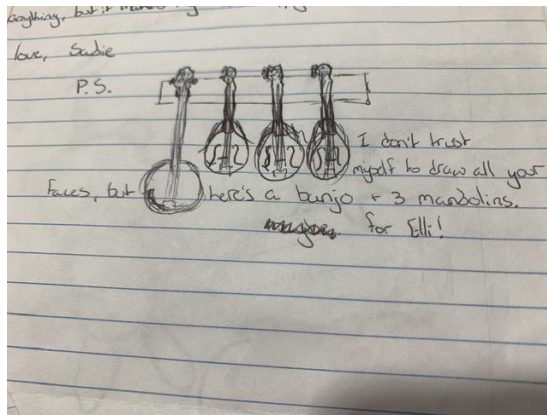
On the weekend of March 25-27, 2022 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at Arthur Morgan School, Celso, NC. This is our witness. This is our story.

Dear SAYF,

You are growing! After such a long hiatus, it is lovely to see so many new people bring the same energy I remember feeling when I first came here. Not to be too ehhhh about it or anything, but it makes my heart happy.

love, Sadie

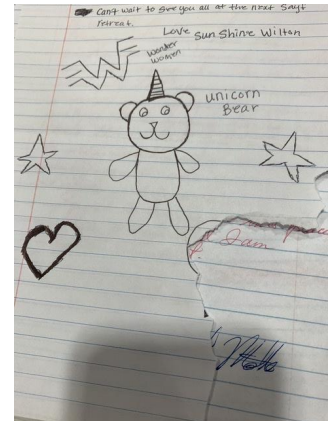
P.S.



Dear SAYF,

The hike was fun. I loved seeing the beautiful mountains. It was great to see you all again. Can't wait to see you all at the next SAYF retreat.

Love, SunShine Wilton



It has been a privilege and a gift for me to spend time in the company of this group this weekend. It's hard to overstate the power of a group of teenagers articulating how they will practice kindness toward each other and then doing it. The beautiful creativity that you each embody inspires me deeply. I'm also grateful to be among adults who have the wisdom and restraint to stay mostly out of the way and let you be who you are as individuals and as a community.

Spirit is moving in this place and these people, and I am grateful to witness it.

Blessings
David LaMotte

Dear SAYF,

I was honestly a little worried about SAYF surviving with everything that's been happening in the world, less people had been coming and I feared that this community would disappear, but when I first got here to this retreat, I walked into a room and saw so many new faces. I was filled with joy, SAYF would not die out, it evolves and changes, and most of all, it persists. This community has given me so much, and I am honored to be able to pass it on to a new generation.

-David Myers

I've only got a few more retreats left (kinda wack) so I figured it's a perfect time to bring back an old classic epistle format of mine. I'll give you a hint - it rhymes with "schmullet schmoints".

1. Late-night karaoke in the car
 2. Becoming part of a 5-person (maybe more) cuddle puddle
 3. Learning of my dishwashing ineptitude, and then being trained into a black-belt dishwashing pro 100%
 4. Getting several interpretations of my neo-post-post-modernist origami sculptures - - "penguin dancing" was my favorite
 5. Committing a crime against humanity by eating a porch-dropped, taki-infused, guacamole-slathered, dorito-encrusted piece of cake
 6. New secret handshake discovered
 7. Sadie, Charlie and I will definitely start a band with how good our harmonies are sounding
 8. A fantastic walk around the field
 9. I'm amazed that we actually got the FCNL thing done
 10. Just happy to see so many new faces here! Again, I only got like 3 retreats left apparently so y'all better come so I can see you again!!! Feels weird to be an old bum who's on their way out of SAYF but eh I'm still having fun. Love you all.
- Oliver "Danger" "Dishwashing Master" "Olive Oil" Wingate

Dear SAYF,

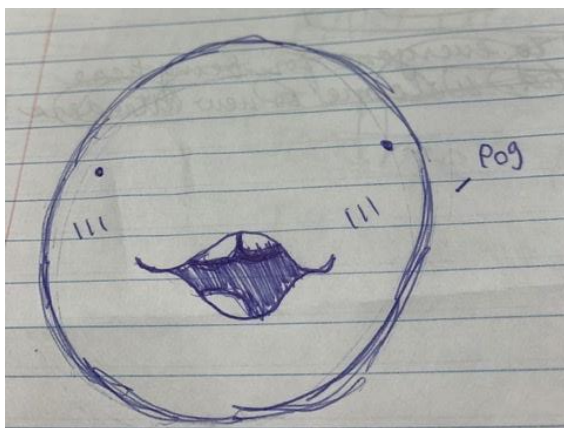
I'm so glad the wind didn't blow us away on the hike, because as always, this community rocks. Thanks to all the new folks who made it through the first night of wondering what in the heck they'd stumbled into, and finding your place here with us. Thanks to all who created the first ever chocolate tortilla guacamole cake with dirt sprinkles - a masterpiece of culinary inspiration

- Chris

Dear SAYF Community,

I was so happy to see everyone come to Celo SAYF retreat. It was wonderful to have so many new attendees. Welcome! Thank you Nurturers and others who made this retreat safe and comfortable and warm community. Big thank you to Sadie for helping with planning and Charlie for showing everyone how to run the dish washing station, etc. Thanks to everyone for your willingness to pitch in and help!

Blessings and Peace, Mari



Piles o' paper aren't free, they're mandatory!

Goodbye SAYF.

I'll be back! Lucius

(Image from the vault of SAYF notebooks - circa 1995?)

With this retreat of 22 young Friends from several regional locales, SAYF felt fully healed from the traumas and stresses of the pandemic. The growing number of wonderful FANs and FADs is especially encouraging; as is the addition of young adult alumni now serving on the steering committee. The query responses shared in opening circle were inspired and put the full light of this community on display, and that light and love shined on through all this Weekend's activities. In peace, with joy, Aaron

In many ways, this year has been a re-start for SAYF, a rebuilding year in a way. I have been relieved to see SAYFers returning, determined to keep the program going. And I was delighted to see so many new faces this weekend. It seems to me that the heart and soul of SAYF lives in your unswerving commitment to radical inclusivity; the value that if one of us feels isolated or unwelcome, then all of us are wounded.

Much love,
Beth Myers, FAN

Dear SAYF,

It has come to my attention that I only have 2 SAYFs left. I am already missing y'all, but trying my best to cherish the time I had and have. Thank you all for being the most loving, accepting, thoughtful, and awesome group of people. I forgive the eating of Ice cream with forks and the guacamole cake. Y'all better come to Memphis.

Love,
Walker

P.S. It's fine if you can't make it to Memphis

