

Dear Friends and Families of SAYF:

During this past year of political turmoil and a growing pandemic, we are more glad than ever that the SAYF community exists for our young friends. As you may know, after discerning how to best support one another, SAYFers decided to continue meeting virtually so that they can sustain the bonds and community that they have worked so hard to create. Since March of last year, many of our teen Nurturers and Steering Committee adults have been participating in frequent business meetings and event planning sessions focused on adapting our guidelines, activities and joyful, loving spirit to the virtual environment.

Since June, 2020, we have managed to host 6 virtual retreat nights, as well as participating in two national Youth Summit weekends organized by the Friends General Conference in December and February. Invitations to more FGC teen gatherings will continue through the summer, augmenting our schedule of monthly virtual SAYF retreats and culminating with SAYMA Yearly Gathering events in June, 2021. Our realistic hope is that we can return to in person retreats starting in August or September of this year.

Although many logistic and budget concerns are absent with virtual retreats, SAYF expenses for mailings, communications and administration remain. Without regular retreat fees we have lost about half of our normal yearly income, and due to the financial impacts of COVID-19, SAYMA has had to reduce their substantial yearly subsidy by 75%.

We are reaching out here with a request that our participating families contribute a **one time retreat fee** to sustain this valuable program and support our ongoing virtual gatherings for Young Friends. The suggested one time fee amount is \$50; as always however, each family should consider what is possible for them, knowing that all SAYFers are welcome at retreats regardless of their family's ability to contribute financially. Contributions can be made via PayPal on the SAYF website awesomesayfers.org, or by using this [donation](#) link. If you need to send a check, please contact Autumn, SAYF Program Coordinator, at awesomesayfers@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

SAYF Steering Committee
Jennifer Dickie, Clerk of SAYF Steering Committee
Chris de Beer, SAYF Steering, Finance Committee
Aaron Ruscetta, SAYF Steering, Finance Committee