

SAYF Community Guidelines

Approved, August 2012, Amended August 2013, 2014, 2017 & 2019

(Abbreviated 2020 for relevance to virtual gatherings. Full guidelines at <http://AwesomeSAYFers.org>)

SAYF guidelines were created by fellow members of the community because we feel that these specific things are important to keeping SAYF a strong, thriving, loving community. They are not rules, but we ask you to respect them and use responsible judgment because infractions of these guidelines could potentially put you or others in danger, and damage the community as a whole. So the community asks that you:

- Don't bring or use restricted substances at SAYF virtual gatherings and don't come with them in your system. This includes alcohol, tobacco products, and drugs.
- Don't bring weapons of any kind to SAYF, remembering that words can be weapons too. Violent language isn't fun or funny and doesn't have a place in the community. Nonviolence is a very important Quaker testimony, and this community stands as a safe place for many people.
- Humor and language that is rooted in means of oppression is not welcome. Slurs or derogatory comments that pertain to gender, race, sexuality, ability, etc. are unwelcome.
- Don't display sexually explicit images or use sexual language at SAYF events as these could potentially cause others to feel uncomfortable, insulted or threatened.
- Actively participating in community activities is a large part of SAYF gatherings. The activities are planned by fellow SAYFers because they want the retreat to be fun and spiritual for everyone. Stay present.
- Strive to be consistently and consciously inclusive and welcoming. Being inclusive is an easy way to give everyone a sense of belonging and help them enjoy a better experience.
- Honor confidentiality. It is important that community members feel that they are in a comfortable and loving space where they can freely share anything. This is held to be true unless you hear that someone might be planning to harm themselves or someone else, at which point you immediately contact a FAN or a Nurturer. Recording of any aspect of virtual events is not permitted,

Underlying the intent of all these guidelines are the Quaker SPICES testimonies. Respecting and reflecting these is an easy way to remember the SAYF principles and abide by them:

Simplicity – Keep things as simple as possible and minimize environmental impact.

Peace – Behave and speak non-violently.

Integrity – Act in ways consistent to your moral compass.

Community – Work with others in a loving, constructive and supportive manner.

Equality – Value each person's beliefs and identity the same.

Stewardship – Give back to the community, and help further the unfolding experience.

In the end, being a positive part of this or any community is a matter of exercising common sense and treating everyone with the same respect and understanding that you yourself deserve. This means being mindful of your actions and language with awareness of the spectrum of comfort levels, ages, identities and beliefs in the community.... This means taking responsibility for your actions and remembering that our actions reflect upon both Young Friends and the wider Quaker community... This means not doing things that will make you uncomfortable or cause you harm... This means respecting yourself, too, so that it is easier for others to respect you and take you seriously.

Have fun, be yourself, be engaged and the Awesome SAYF community will blossom around you.