

SAYF Worship Journal
March 2023 Retreat
Arthur Morgan School, Celo, NC

On the weekend of March 24-26, 2023 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Arthur Morgan School, in Celo, NC. This is our witness. This is our story.

I had a great time! My last retreat without someone graduating...damn, that's scary. I have a bad habit of jumping ship from things at the very end and I feel the impulse creeping in. I don't like heavy goodbyes and seeing them inevitably in my future is worrying me. Even at the end of my time as a SAYFer, I still feel like I'm building new connections and strengthening old ones. Also, seeing active YAFs who are past SAYFers takes a bit of the fear of a permanent exit away. Anyway, I had a lot of fun ripping the tree trunk thing from the ground, sleeping on the slab with Elli, going on a pretty and very windy hike, and eating oh so tasty sushi. I wish my brain were functioning less sleepily right now but oh well. I love y'all and don't hesitate to reach out!

Oliver Wingate, newly crowned Model of Sweden.

P.S. Teo we miss you and I'm thinking about you dude!

Dear SAYF,

In a few ways, I feel I have not been a very present FAN this weekend. I forgot to bring the SAYF box and epistle box. I was irritated at the beginning of the retreat b/c our transportation and drivers had complications. And I felt very detached while I was here. I felt bad to realize other FANs had taken up the slack. Getting together a first-aid kit, figuring out an alternative to worship journals, participating in activities,. I was embarrassed they were fixing MY mistakes. But I'm sitting here, realizing the light from the window is shining on me for a minute. A light shining on everyone. We are not individual selves trudging through our own difficulties. We are connected, one community, to assist the body of Friends as needed. And I am grateful and humbled to be a part of this thing called community where we fill in the parts that are needed and support the parts that are weaker.

Much love Friends,
Beth, FAN

Dear SAYF Community,

Thank you for letting your beauty shine at this SAYF retreat. Many of you stepped outside of perhaps your normal comfort level and reached out to others.

How did that feel?

I asked myself the question several times throughout the retreat. I also let myself be comforted and nurtured by others. I felt my spirit lift up p

The hike to the strawberry field was lovely. The wind, the sun, the water, the trees were all nurturing my body and spirit. I felt like being a part of the greater thing as beth said.

I'm appreciative of nurturers, Celo SAYFers, Sadie for your active leadership - Thank you everyone for your active participation. Get better, those of you who couldn't make it.
Peace and much love from Mari

Nurturing our nature

I was put on this earth to nurture. as I write that sentence, it makes me cry. I feel freed from the burdens of pain by writing it down. And I hope that others that I nurture feel freed from the pain as well.

The crossed out part of the [first] sentence said "those who need that." But, there is no need to specify. We all need to be nurtured and we all need a nurturer. I am blessed to feel this freedom. I hope that SAYFers know they all show that they too have been put here to nurture each other. I have seen that this retreat. Thank you.

Celo has good water. Potato chips. Better be crunchy munchy.

Dear SAYF,

I forgot just how awesome Celo retreats are. My first retreat was at Celo, and it's where I first stepped into a more comfortable groove within SAYF. Some things are still the same, SAYF still has an awesome birthday song, and strawberry fields is still an awesome hike. Other things have changed, I got a decent night's sleep, and was the oldest Atlanta SAYFer. I hope you feel better soon Teo, and I hope Morgan is doing alright. We played bear in an interesting way, and Baxter and I were amazing bears (my first win as a bear), and people had amazing spots. I enjoyed tearing up invasive plants, and the surprise visit from charlie. Swinging a pickaxe that many times was exhausting, but worth it. I can't wait to see you all again at the next retreat.

Hugs if you want them,
Sage Hallward
(They/she)

