

SAYF Worship Journal

September 2023 Retreat
Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse

On the weekend of September 15-17, 2023 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Atlanta Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.

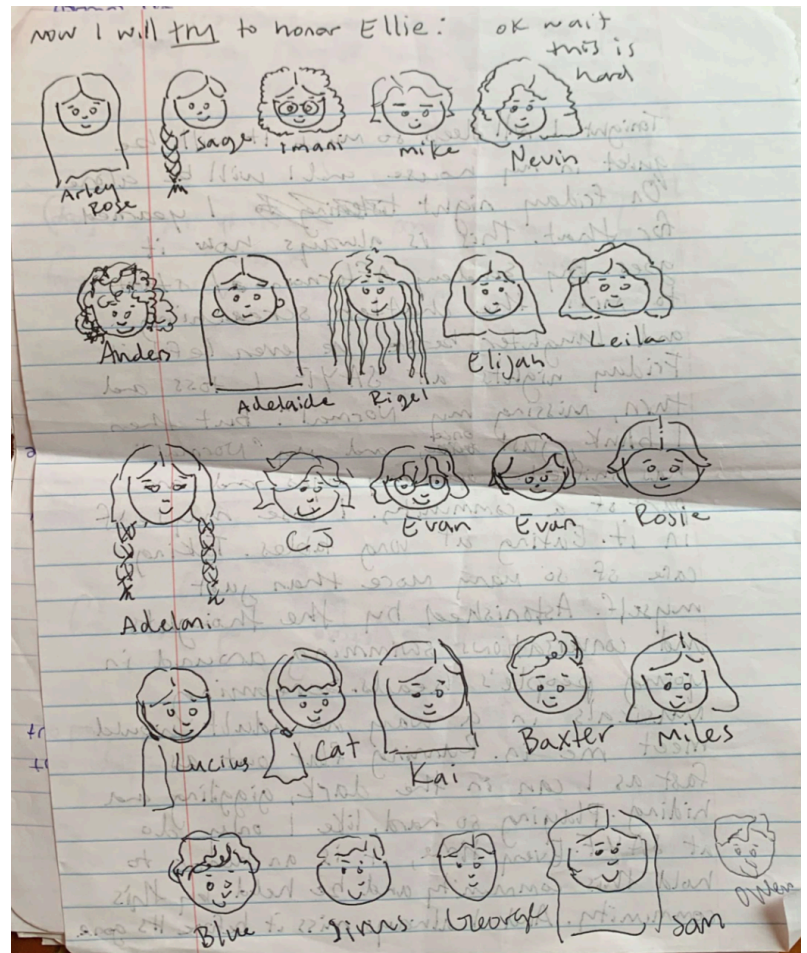
Rap Song (W.I.P.)

Silly

With my homies in the club and we hangin out
It was all good till the D.J. walked out
Apparently he got fired
But that's ok cuz my raps are fire
I walk on stage, getting ready to sing
I tap the mic 1-2 Testing Testing
This club boutta get interesting
I start singing, and the people are dancing
They throw money at me like im a French King
I'm cold like the arctic don't mess with me
Dipped out in chains and Gucci
Got so much money and im bathing in it
Like a pickle in its brine im swimming in it
Walk out the club everybody lookin at me
Everyone treat me like a friend not an enemy
Just gotta say life is perfect
Making it out da hood was worth it (Beat Drop)

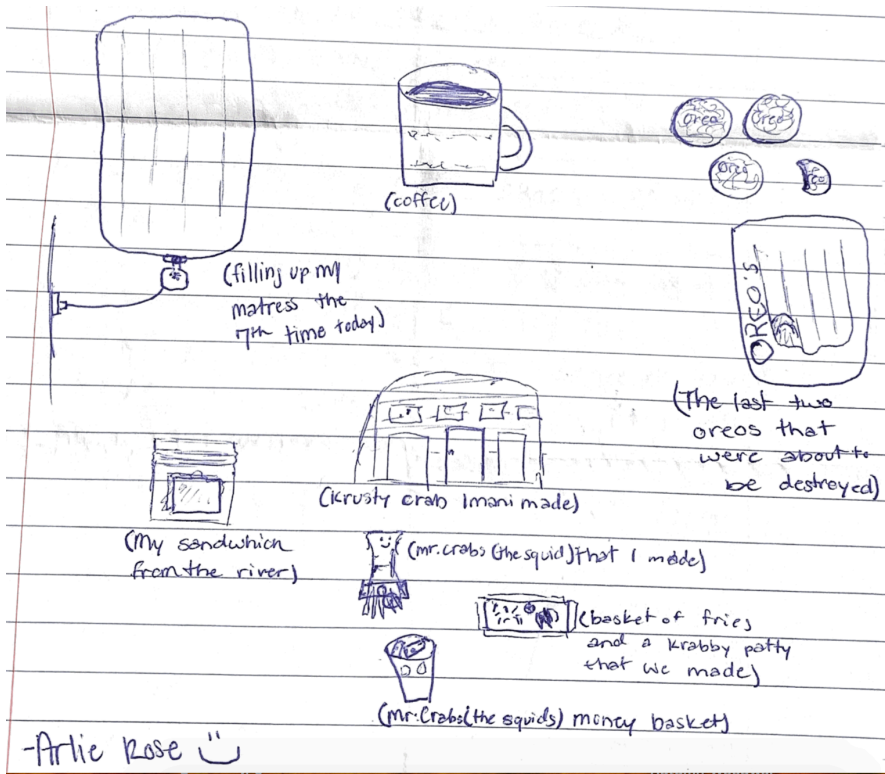
Serious

This SAYF was so much fun. I really enjoyed the hard work everyone put into it. Favorite part was probably bear, but I enjoyed the whole trip. Thanks Everyone! (Goober)



Tonight I will sleep so much. It will be quiet in my house and I will be alone. On Friday night I yearned for that. This is always how it goes. By Sunday afternoon I start to miss the chatter, screeching and laughter before I've even left it. Friday nights at SAYF I toss and turn, missing my "Normal." But then I blink, just once, and my "Normal" has shifted. I open my eyes and am part of a community. I lose myself in it. Eating at long tables. Taking care of so many more than just myself. Astonished by the thoughts and conversations swimming around in young people's heads. Screaming musicals in a way no adult would meet me in. Running flat out as fast as I can in the dark, giggling and hiding. Playing so hard, like I only do at SAYF. Every time, it is an honor to hold this community and be held by this community. And I always miss it before it's gone.

This was my first real SAYF and it was so much fun! Eating oreos, late night talks in the teen room, and making bonds. I wish I didn't have to go back to school tomorrow, but I will not miss my deflating air mattress. I am so grateful for all the friends I've made and all the fun we've had. I can't wait to come back for the next retreat



- Arlie Rose :)

Alright, 3rd retreat is basically over. It continues to surprise me how much can happen in one Saturday. I'm trying to write sentences but my mind is blank so I guess I'll just write bullet points about the most memorable things to me. (In no specific order)

1. Getting my hair braided
2. Watching Sam slap Blue's phone in some water
3. Yelling Hamilton with a bunch of other people
4. Me and Blue trying to find out what the deal with airplane food is
5. Making bracelets with Kat's bracelet stuff
6. Having the bracelet I made fall off my wrist
7. Getting Jump Scared by the trains at least 50 times
8. Getting a pair of my socks completely soaked running out to CJ's car when they got here
9. Going to the lost city of Atlantis
10. Playing Frisbee ball
11. Completely failing to make a candle
12. Meeting new friends
13. Getting rained on while going on a Joy with Owen
14. Bear
15. Getting told the epic story of Mr. T. (Mr. T. 2 coming soon to theatres)
16. 6 hour car ride
17. Pillow fight

Kai K.

27 SAYFers/6 Nurturers
8 FANS
4 Night Shepherds

wow!

So many old Friends and new Friends. It is my dream of SAYF future coming true - after pandemic SAYF! Thank you for committing to this community, for coming once to try it. For coming again to season it and for coming always to build it.

Nice work SAYF.
way to go Nurturers
way to go FANS
way to go Friends

with abiding love,
Jennifer

This has been one of my best SAYFs. I was able to make many things that I could bring back. I was also able to play a new game called fisball that was my favorite part of SAYF cuz all the laughs. I was able to meet a lot of great people here. Thank you.

Hi Sayfers,

This community brings me so much joy. My heart is always so full when I'm here and I'm never not sad when I leave. I love you all so much - even those I'm not as close to - and I can't wait to see you all again in a few weeks.

p.s. Baxter: I think your guitar playing is the most beautiful thing I have ever heard.

Dear Sayf,

Despite switching Lead FANS, rainstorms and...brownies, this was certainly a great retreat. I had so much fun playing fisbee baseball, getting jujitsued by Sage, boiling my blood in Egyptian ratscrew, bamboozling people in the shower in bear, hiking up that huge rock, going to bed precisely on time and bellowing. This was quite possibly the best first retreat as a nurturer. I am so excited for Miles and Lucius to have their first too.

Peace, love and crusty YAC blankets.

- Bax H

P.S. We miss you Mason

P.P.S. I pity the fool who mess with T!

P.P.P.S. Mr. T: Jesus Family Tree, coming to Sayf in your general area in October

I really enjoyed learning about the history and future of the Bruce Street School. I liked being a part of the revitalization of that historic landmark. I had not been to Arabia Mountain and really enjoyed making that trip as well. Thank you to everyone for being here - for sharing your perspective and being a part of this special community. Danielle FAN

Dear Sayf,

This month's retreat was amazing. This was my second Sayf, so I am still meeting new people. Everyone has been very welcoming and I have gotten to (at least partially) get to know all of you guys. This retreat, we had amazing french toast, had fun at a river, and invented a new game. Thank you guys so much,

- Owen

This was a good retreat. I really enjoyed beginning to watch fantastic Mr. Fox. The walk up the mountain was also fun, especially when Sam punished me for my lack of, then, present attention to the beauty around us. I'm very satisfied with the new chapter of Mr. T: A Ballad. I really had fun staying up past our bedtime like a bad box.

- Blue (out of time)

Even though I wasn't here the first night, I had a lot of fun. I like being able to sleep next to my friends and have car ride conversations. It was really fun cleaning the school and finding artifacts and stuff. I also loved going into the river even though it stunk a little and was gross looking. I bruised my butt a little sliding down the rocks but it was worth it. I wish I could've gone from higher up. Bear was very fun, baxter gets way too into it and it's kinda terrifying. I wish I had been here longer and gotten closer with people but I feel like I made some friends. I had a lot of fun and am already looking forward to october. I love all of you!!! I wish Sayf was more often because it seems to go by so fast. See y'all in October :)

