

SAYF Worship Journal
April 2024 Retreat
Durham Friends Meeting, Durham, NC

On the weekend of April 26-28, 2024 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Durham Friends Meeting, in Durham, NC. This is our witness. This is our story.

Best time at SAYF yet! It was nice to spend time with everyone in a place I know and am more comfortable in. I feel like I got to know everyone really well this trip, and felt like a part of SAYF. Sad I missed Bear, but so glad I was able to participate when I could. Love y'all, Craig

I'm so glad I was able to spread the message of J-Dawg this retreat, as well as that of the Pizza Man. I'm also glad I could be here for Zoë's graduation. If I had to describe a perfect retreat, I would choose this one. Though, I think I said that last time. We were able to add on to the Ballad of Mr T: The Musical.

Love, Blue

So much silly stuff happened this weekend. Where to begin?! Within 30 minutes of getting here George was challenging me in geometry dash as we cuddled on the couch. Actually, going back to the car ride we listened to Kai's Spotify playlist for around 4 hours. Next day we did serious activities and what not, then more buffoonery. Such as Flying Kickball, Pond Soccer, Koozie Ball, and so much more. Stripping ahead, Zoe's graduation was incredible. People had so much genuine praise for them that it showed me ways to improve myself. And with that, I will dust off my hands, boggle my bagels, and shut the book on my #1 retreat to date!

Yours truly
Lushious

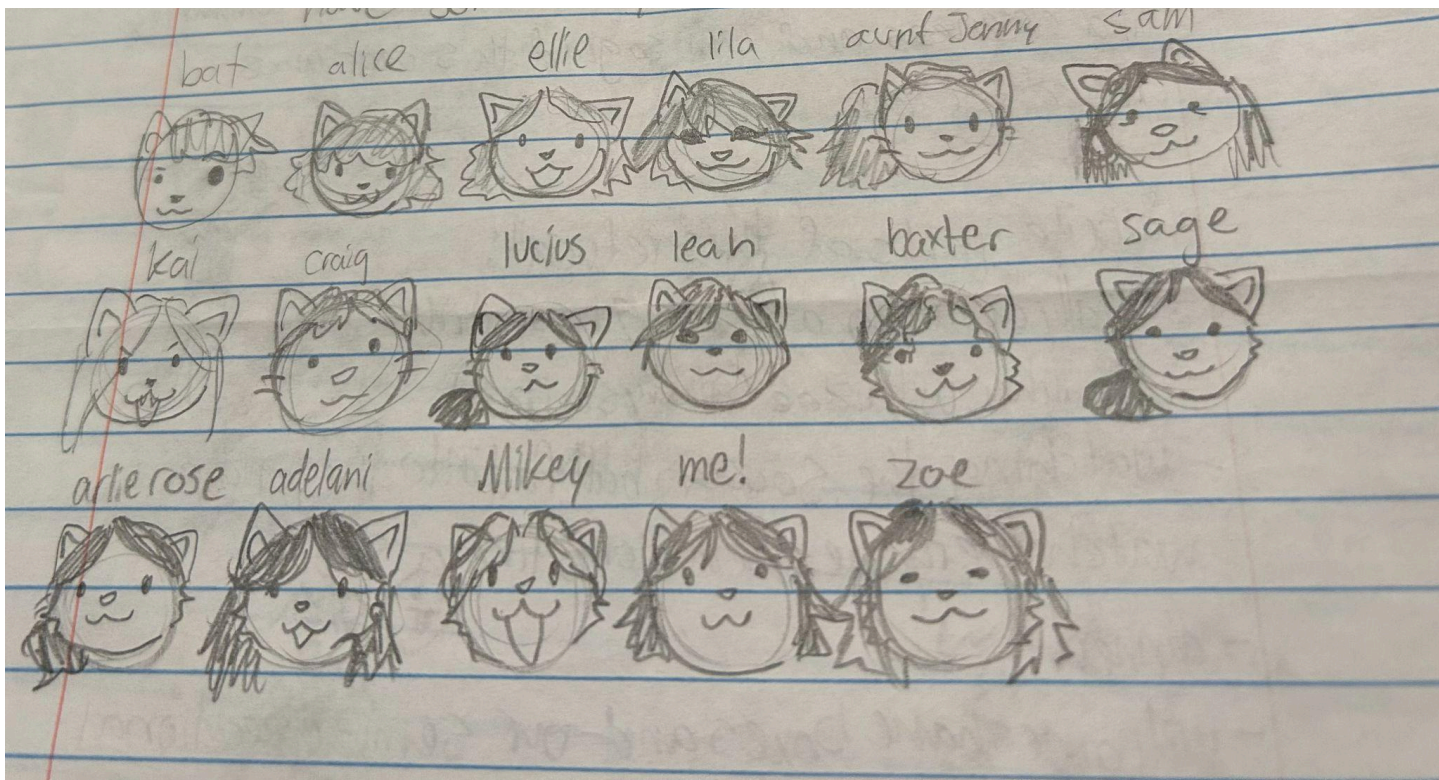
SAYF has brought me to so many amazing people and this year has been wonderful. I made great new friends that I hope last a while, if not forever. Whether it be pretending we're extremely southern dads in the kitchen with Mikey or laying with Zoë or Sam, I always feel a sense of community and closeness and I'm so glad this door was opened for me.

Favorite parts of this retreat:

- finally arriving after a 9 hour drive
- drawing with Zoë (always a blast)
- watching the soccer ball fall into the pond and watch everyone's reactions like a show
- dinner!
- welcome home boxes and our semi-operational assembly line
- graduation
- staying up after lights out and falling asleep for a few minutes in the library while talking to Blue, Mikey, and Zoë
- couch piles
- lielielie...(laybank)

I hope everyone gets and opportunity to find their community like I did, even when people leave it so soon. (💙 you Zoë)

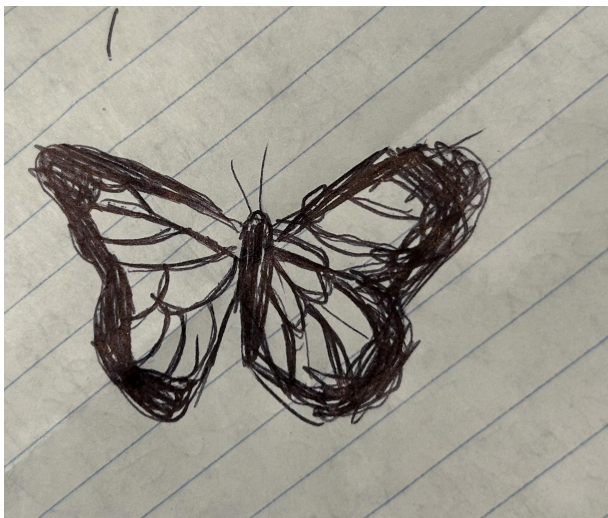
have some of you as cats!



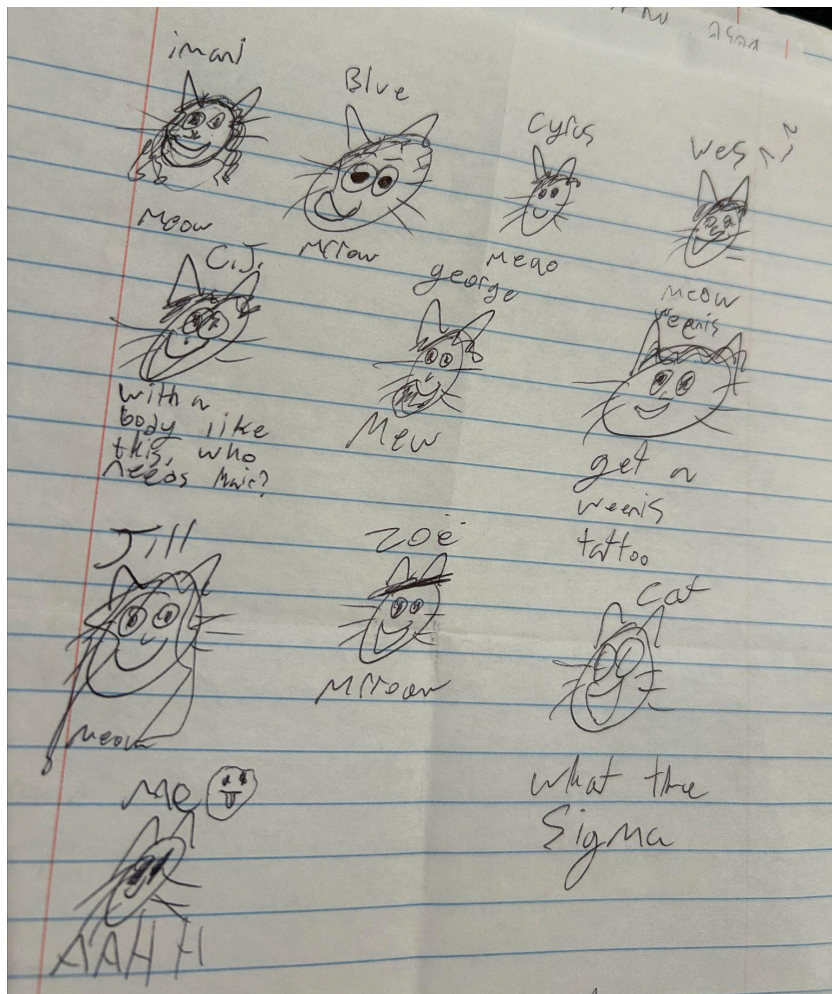
(continued on another page from Mikey)

Love you all!!!

stay pawsome
-cat



I had a great time at SAYF, at the start I got to chill and then reconnect. Every SAYF I go to just gets better and better, my fav part was during bear at the start running on all fours looking for people in the meeting room.



Snuggling, relaxing, and being in a friendly place where I don't have to worry about many things is what I will miss most at SAYF. I can't wait to come back for more amazing weekends.

George

I am blessed to know each of you. Yay for Kai hugs! Leah is the cake boss. Sage can make things happen. Blue and Lila have the best random remarks. Bat has the best friendly smile and wave that come out of nowhere. Each person here brings a smile to my face and warmth to my heart. I am so glad Elijah got out our train set. It was like Christmas morning, watching so many of you with it. This was my first retreat as a Lead FAN and the graduation of Zoë, whose family told us to come to their Quaker meeting when we were lost. My heart is with all of you lovelies.

Stay SAYF,

Aunt Jenny

SAYF was fun. Alice and I spend most of our time on the swings, and sometimes Lila would join too. The best part was prank calling with loads of other people. I also enjoyed playing bear. Alice and I would make up game plans. Congrats to Zoë for graduating!

It was also fun drinking monster energy with the rest of the sillies. It has become an honorable tradition to silly culture. I also LOVED going to the gardens and seeing the koi, and also a baby mouse. Elli would always make me laugh with some of her absolutely unhinged jokes. Overall, this was one of the best meetings - bat

SAYF is good

SAYF is fun

SAYF is great

SAYF is a word that rhymes with fun

I'm a great poet I know, no need for

applause. I'm not even gonna try and make a transition, here are bullet points:

- According to Adelani, my arm is a perfect pillow
- Swings are absolutely amazing
- I can't tell if I'm great or terrible at obsti-ball
- Craig in a lake, and Wenis
- The garden was beautiful
- Welcome home box making line
- Wealth Inequality (rich people gotta stop being greedy)
- I'm gonna miss you so much Zoë
- Anybody want a pizza slice?
- Don't ever call me you go**mn canoe
- Me and Leah are absolute besties
- Bear is terrifying
- Me and Kat playing trustfall
- Mr. T returns yet again
- Was it related to Jesus? (ask Blue)
- Wenus lost his tiny shoe
- We need to pump up our soccer balls
- I'm so so so sweaty
- I feel like put baxters name in here
- I already said it but I'll say it again, I'm gonna miss you Zoë
- Lushius refuses to play CIV6 with me
- Bea is great at soccer
- Adelani let me play a bunch of merge games on her phone
- George has been extremely George like

- I've been trying to break it for a year and CJ broke their phone without me
- I wish I hung out with Evan more
- Circle around Eli
- I need a hug from Sage (those are special)
- Thanks for the hair tie Arlie Rose, sorry I lost it
- Sam got covered in sand
- I keep almost calling Cyris Cypris
- I wish Owen were here for longer
- I'm out of space on this page

● Kai Kukas

Dear SAYF,

Some things never change. Graduation, no matter where, who or how is always an emotional rollercoaster. Zoë you will be missed so much. From silly goofy activities, to dnd discussions to cuddles on the couch. In other topics, Durham hasn't hosted a retreat in years (since 2019 at least) and it was wonderful to see your meetinghouses (unfair, I want 2 meetinghouses) and experience your retreat. I loved the topic of wealth inequality, the speakers on homelessness and reentry, making welcome home boxes, the walk in the park (I hope the baby mouse is ok), the game of bear, and the wonderful dish washing set up. I hope I don't have to wait 5 years to see this amazing place again.

Love,
Sage

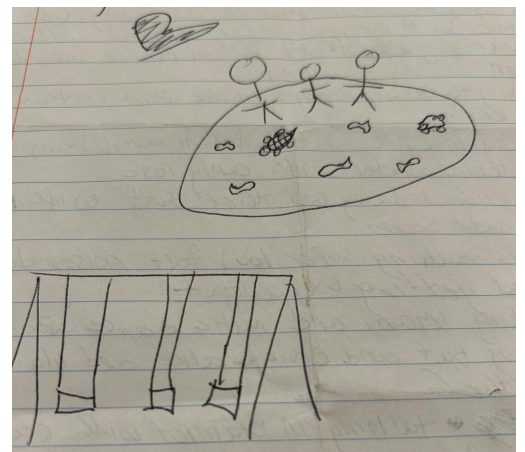
I had so much fun this retreat but I don't really know how to put it into words so I'm going to do bullet points of what I'm grateful for this retreat as I know many others will.

- Playing cards with robbie, rosie, bax and george
- getting my wenis tattoo
- Talking to leah about cake
- swinging with lila and alice
- Playing the soccer game on the swing? (Idk the name) with everyone who participated in that
- watching people be pulled and pulling people around on the floor in my blanket
- Trying to catch animals in the pond with wenis and craig
- laying in a pile with adelani and kai
- watching avatar with arly rose
- watching J-dawg and other stuff with blue cyrus and sam
- wenis making super loud fart noises during bear and getting us caught
- watching imani and mike dance around in the kitchen
- watching bat and Ellie, alice and lila have fun together
- talking in brain rot with cat
- talking to owen
- playing oppsy ball and gooner in the middle
- seeing everyone express how much love we all have for Zoë and seeing her say the kindest words I've ever heard in return
- talking to lucius in line for dinner
- hanging out with george and playing different games

I'm so grateful for this community and all of you

CJ

I'm sorry if I missed mentioning any person. I seriously enjoyed spending time with everyone even if I didn't state a name specifically.



Cyrus

hi! my name is

huh?

my name is

what?

my name is chika chika B-J-P

Pickles back to rappin and bathing

in brine

Jonas is impeccable as I'm sure you'll find

I been scheming like I'm swiper no swiping cuz my cards online if the bear eats the fox and the fox eats the deer

who breaks your bad habits is it you or a peer? Now I've got a guess and he's here live what's his name? it S- Hi!

my name is huh? my name is what? my name is chika chika jaquavi quavious on the track rapping in T-I-M-E i

always shop at snes where its B-Y-OB. Even if you're higher don't mean your better you're only a CANOE, mom

those fish are better, whats cooler, than being cool? me alright. since you're a liar for your pants i'd keep some

water on sight Wait Who's that? its eminem in the ring He's been hearing us sing his little "my name is" thing

White rabbit is roadkill compared to me Somebody call a vulture, clean up on aisle 3!! me and jacquarious the

best in the game Jonas and Jacquarious, J and J Not Jimmy Jonas cuz compared to them we make k

sandwich look great.

This is a collection of notes and quotes that briefly attempts to show this retreat. "Life is good with friends like these" - Aunt Jenny 2023 Thanks to all who listened to my impromptu show :)

"I put the app in opp in oppie ball" Craig 2024

The holy trinity Dwanye Barrack Jhonston, Mr. T and Jesus - paraphrased from Mr. T prequel Part II

We love Zoey!!! - me just now

"He's just so luscious (not lucious)" - everyone

Thanks to the service project helpers!

"Anybody want a pizza slice?"

"You canoe!!" "With a body like this, who needs hair?" Ear mew

Rock out hands = I love you in sign language

Rock out hands

Thank the lord for refrigerators

Happy first semi-retreat for Edie!

Thanks to Aunt Jenny for always stepping up.

"Jisan-ALGaib!!!"

Rock out hands for the fans!

Clearness committee speedrun! THE FOOD WAS SO GOOD!

- Baxter, honored T accompanist, Henderson

Dear SAYF,

This retreat was SUPER DUPER special to me. Getting to see and hang out with people I love in a space that I am so connected to was really beautiful. I have slept in both of these rooms, the porch, the fellowship room, the meeting room NUMEROUS times, and I'm so glad everyone else gets to experience this beautiful space with so many beautiful people. Durham is SO FREAKING SPECIAL to me and I will always love and respect this city and most of its people.

My highlights, in no particular order:

- fm fiction and tiktoks with eve
- anime talking with Cat and widderwy everyone
- grumpy American husband bit with Cat
- Tiktoks Slam, Imani and Cat
- Pregnancy with Slam

- Seeing Emma-Sophia and Layla
- ZOË GRADUATION
- just being super silly and laughing a lot in general

I LOVE YOU GUYS! - Michael David Killen

Dear SAYF,

I loved this retreat! Whoever suggested going to the gardens, thank you, it was so pretty and I got to see a lotus flower, so thanks! Aunt Jenny, thank you for helping me in the kitchen, it would have taken me thirty minutes to find everything. Also thank you for thinking of me when you realized someone needs to bake desserts! Bear was hilarious and fun, I think this was one of the best ones so far! Thank you to all of the bears for making the game more fun. Lastly thank you Brent for driving us 7 hours and dealing with our nonsense. I wouldn't have been able to come here if it wasn't for you! I can't wait for the next retreat with all of y'all!

Leah

Dear SAYF,

I'm going to miss y'all so much, all of the chaos, snuggles and cuddles, the sleepless nights with the people you love around you, just the feeling of knowing you belong. I wish I could bottle up SAYF and store everything this community is in my treasure chest for the days where I feel like I'm lost to sea, just floating without anything to keep me up over the waves. All of the people I've got to know over the few SAYF retreats I've appeared at are so, so amazing, everyone is themselves undoubtedly and it's so freeing. I'm rambling now, but here's some moments at this retreat that will stay with me:

- my graduation ceremony, everyone was so so sweet and took away any insecurities I was having
- watching a group of SAYFers (u know who u are) grab a ball out of a pond at Duke Gardens, kick and chuck it around, including losing it into the pond AGAIN multiple times as I made friendship bracelets
- being able to cuddle with Sage multiple times throughout the retreat
- not being able to find Baxter in Bear bc he was on a fridge AGAIN (I should've known-)
- drawing the Delisous in Dungeon characters from memory with Cat XD
- Being able to come to SAYF with a heavy heart and be able to lift that weight so quickly bc of the joy and love I felt right when I got there
- Waking up Sam for the 100th time on Sunday

I love you all so much and I hope you remember that even when I'm gone. Ya'll deserve the world.

