

Atlanta January 2025 SAYF Retreat Summary

We began Saturday morning with a breakfast made by Adelani's mom in celebration of her 15th birthday (quincenera). We learned some about what a quincenera means as a coming of age ceremony in Latinx culture. Following that we made bottle cap pins, using paint, collage material, and markers, then sealing it with clear nail polish and attaching a pin to the back. After lunch, our plans to hike up Stone Mountain were adjusted due to weather, so we went to the Doll's Head Trail, at Constitution Lakes. The trail is through the Weelaunee forest, and trash that was strewn in the area was collected and made into art for park visitors. We talked briefly about the history of the land and the Muscogee people who lived there, and about Tortuguita who was killed very near to those woods, two years ago on the same day. We held the tension between the violence that has happened on that land and the beauty of the land. In the evening, we did an impromptu talent show, and finished the evening out with birthday cake and beer.