

SAYF Worship Journal

October 2025 Retreat
Berea Friends Meetinghouse

On the weekend of October 17-19, 2025 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Berea Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.

This retreat was small, but good!! I really enjoy Berea retreats, as they are always so nice and relaxing. I really enjoyed walking the path to the creek and watching everyone skip rocks. (It's insane how good the Kentucky rocks skip) and finding pretty fall leaves and hanging out at the park and carving pumpkins (thanks to Rigel for finding some toothpicks for us for our pumpkins) playing Dutch blitz was super fun. I really enjoyed eating cheese puffs and lounging with a bunch of people. Writing backwards and lefthanded with Rigel was awesome, and I realized how much I have to practice writing backwards with my left hand. Adelani, Blue and Ben were great car companions, and they made the drive here so enjoyable, as I'm sure they will for the ride back, but I'm sorry Ben had to leave early. Making s'mores with everyone was so fun!! I'm so glad there ended up being a guitar here. The new SAYFers were awesome to have around, and I hope they come back! Lucius and Blue were amazing at nurturing, as always. I enjoy y'all's company so much!!! Hope you come to Columbia in November.

Love, Phoenix

The west crow flies
under skies moonlit
over fields bloody and burned
over those, whose upturned eyes
Draw the picture of their lives

Over the sun
The east crow flies.
To family and farm,
To city and street
With Patrons many, at the bar.

The Family sits,
There in seats
Breaking their bread away
The father remembers
The tears of his pain
The son forgets too soon.

A Poem about loss

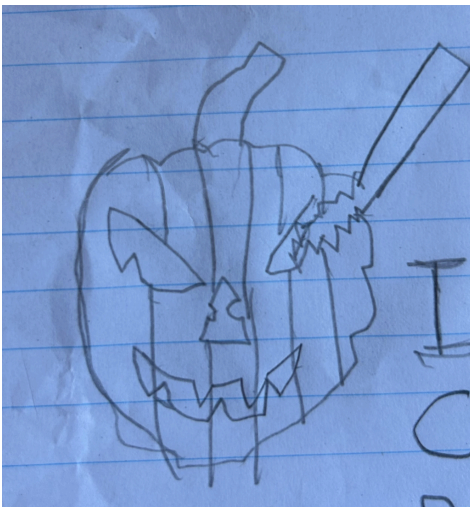
Berea October SAYF retreat

Thank you for being here. I'm so glad to see so many new faces. I was impressed with your willingness to try something new, to be flexible when you were unsure, and show up authentically. Thank you for traveling long distances. Thank you for investing in this community. Also for being welcoming, kind and joyful. Thank you for helping things run smoothly and doing your part to clean up. Thank you for respecting SAYF traditions and for

bringing your own flair. You are SAYF and I love you.
I hope to see you next time! - Danielle FAN

I don't usually write epistles because I don't like writing when I'm tired, and I feel like there are enough good epistles that get written anyway. But there are so few people here I thought it would be worth writing one this time. Well, as mentioned above, this was an extremely small retreat and although there were a lot of people I missed, I appreciated how it changed the people I hung out with, because I usually just hang out with the people that I made friends with first. But this retreat there were so few of those people I had to hang out with other people more.

I had a fun time. I had a fun time carving pumpkins. I had a fun time doing everything.



It was fun when in meeting time every other town had 7, meanwhile Berea had like 8. What I did not like is when I hurt my arm. The retreat was very fun.