

SAYF Report to SAYMA June 2015

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) held 6 retreats during the past year. We have averaged 40 Young Friends (YF) per retreat with 76 different teens coming to at least one retreat during the past year. Some Young Friends attended all 6 retreats and others attended only one. Details of each retreat are summarized below. Most retreats were hosted at Meetinghouses, but we also gathered once at the Arthur Morgan School and once at Camp Ridge Haven. Asheville and Atlanta Meetings were very gracious to host us twice. We are deeply appreciative to Friends for allowing us to use their facilities.

Though we planned to hold two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee retreats, inclement weather forced us to cancel our meeting in February. The Steering Committee completed much of our spring business via email and during the March and April retreats.

Though more than 10 teens graduated from SAYF last June, our community has been as strong as ever, with new leaders emerging at each retreat. We are seeking more adult participation in the program, particularly Steering Committee members from Berea and Chattanooga. In 2016, we are excited to hold a retreat at the Nashville Friends Meeting for the first time in years.

SAYF Retreats:

- 1. Asheville Meetinghouse Retreat** **September 19-21, 2014**
Theme: *Finding Balance*
of YFs: 36
of full-time FANs:* 7
(*Friendly Adult Nurturers)
Activities included: White water rafting!

- 2. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat** **October 17-19, 2014**
Theme: *Identity: The facets of who we are*
of YFs: 24
of full-time FANs: 7
Activities included: Mask-making, halloween parade

- 3. Asheville Meetinghouse Retreat** **November 14-16, 2014**
Theme: *The Hero Within*
of YFs: 38
of full-time FANs: 8
Activities included: Creating our super hero identities, and a visit to the lake

- 4. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat** **January 16-18, 2015**
Theme: *Bringing Light to Others*
of YFs: 50
of FANs: 9
Activities included: Clothes drive service project, talent show

5. Arthur Morgan School (Celo) Retreat

March 20-22, 2015

Theme: *Rejuvenation. Nature Recharge*

of YFs: 56

of full time FANs: 10

Activities included: Hiking, outdoor activities, bonfire, and a field trip to Mt. Mitchell

6. Camp Ridge Haven Retreat

April 17-19, 2015

Theme: *Come Together*

of YFs: 36

of full time FANs: 9

Activities included: ropes course, games, table tennis, hiking, outdoor activities

Nurturing/Steering Committees Retreats

1. Atlanta Meetinghouse

August 22-24, 2014

of Nurturing Committee Members: 15

of Steering Committee Members: 7

2. Swannanoa Meetinghouse

February 20-22, 2015

Canceled due to weather