

June 26, 2016

The following is an excerpt from my biological field notes.

Day 73:

As I was bushwhacking in the cornfields of McNabb, I was struck by a menacing cackle. Though I did not know it at the time, I was about to encounter with the creature that would define my career: the illusive and flamboyant Adult Young Friend.

The more I came to discover about the Adult young friend, they began to trust me.

The following attributes describe the AYF. Typically walking upright, the AYF will spontaneously jump into the air to catch a flying disc they call a Frisbè. They value the Frisbè, so much so that when one of their own broke the Frisbè in a fit of joy, they punished him with multiple "clearness committees".

They AYF also wear plaid on plaid in a seemingly oblivious fashion misstatement yet it is a standard of beauty among their own community. The AYF commonly displays brightly colored hair or luscious facial hair as thick and muddy as a barn swallow's nest. At times, they become dormant and can re-appear a decade later and resuming normal behaviors.

The AYF gather for a yearly meeting. During which, I observed their appetite for physical communion such as rock climbing up grain silos or hiking through buffalo park.

For two nights, they took up the responsibility to engage the young with games and activities that were simultaneously captivating and silent. They also came together with their elders and the underlings to create a fiery celebration.

When the AYFer feels solemn, they will trudge to the final resting place of their ancestors. My time with the AYF community has been enlightening and fulfilling. Their trust has grown to the point where I have been anointed to a position of high regard. Through it continues to remain a mystery to me; they have made me their "co-clerp". I know that it bears great fortune and I look forward for my years to come with this eccentric community.

Illinois Yearly Meeting 2016

Adult Young Friends