

McNeil Scout Ranch – Camp Cris Dobbins

Leader's Meeting 1 – February 18, 2026

AI Summary of the Meeting

A.I. INFORMATION MAY NOT BE ACCURATE, AND MAY BE MISLEADING. CHECK CAMP WEBSITE, DOCUMENTS OR CONTACT STAFF FOR CLARIFICATION.

Overview

This meeting was a comprehensive leader's meeting for the McNeil Scout Ranch at Peaceful Valley Camp Cris Dobbins for the 2026 summer camp season. The meeting covered the Leader's Guide contents, camp policies, procedures, and introduced a new schedule format for the upcoming season. The ranch director Jack Loats and camping specialist John Braselton led the presentation, with program team administrative specialist Krista Katsirebas also introduced as a new team member.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- New camp schedule with merit badges in the morning and troop activities in the afternoon
- Electronic medical forms system (CampDoc) for all participants
- Comprehensive safety protocols and emergency procedures
- "Grab bag" program offering additional merit badge and activity options

Important Questions Raised:

- How will the new schedule format impact merit badge completion?
- What accommodations are available for special needs campers?
- How will the "grab bag" activity selection process work for troops?
- What are the procedures for medication management at camp?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- McNeil Scout Ranch operates under seven guiding principles: Guest Service Excellence, Ownership, Safety, Integrity, Innovation, and Mission
- CampDoc will be available in March for all participants to complete required medical forms electronically
- The camp will offer two staggered arrival times (1:00pm and 2:00pm) on check-in day to improve the flow of arrivals
- All youth medications must be administered by health staff at designated times per Colorado state regulations

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- Adult leaders must have current Safeguarding Youth training and provide proof of membership
- The 2026 season marks the 60th anniversary of Peaceful Valley

Topic 1: Camp Registration and Preparation

The camp registration process follows a timeline with specific payment deadlines: 20% due in January, 40% due by February 1st, 60% due by March 1st, and 80% due by April 1st. All participants must complete electronic medical forms through CampDoc, which will be available in March. No paper copies will be accepted. Required documentation includes BSA Medical Form Parts A, B, and C (with physical evaluation within one year that cannot expire during camp), copy of insurance card, Colorado Addendum forms, and any applicable special diet request forms or activity waivers. Adult leaders must upload proof of current Safeguarding Youth training and BSA membership verification. Units are encouraged to complete swim checks prior to arrival to expedite the check-in process. A text alert system is available for each week of camp, allowing leaders to receive important updates and emergency information.

Relevant Q&A

Speaker: Does the troop or parent upload info in campdoc?

John: The parent or guardian.

Speaker: What if we have 2 trailers. Would we just unload one at a time?

John: Depending on the campsite (size, other units etc) only one may be allowed at a time. If space allows, we can accommodate 2.

Speaker: What if you have special needs person who needs their car at camp?

John: That will be covered later, but we have driving permits available.

Topic 2: Camp Facilities and Policies

McNeil Scout Ranch spans 3,400 acres with various campsites. The Billings campsite will feature 12 completed Adirondacks (wooden shelters) with bunk beds that can accommodate 48 people. Both Amarillo and Billings campsites will have permanent fire rings allowing campfires. All campsites have access to electricity with GFCI outlets in latrines for essential needs like CPAP machines. Due to Elbert County's fire restrictions, open fires are generally prohibited in most campsites, with propane stoves and grills

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permitted for cooking. Each campsite will have a camp staff member nearby for supervision, staying in gray tents with lights for easy identification at night. The camp maintains a strict policy requiring closed-toe shoes at all times except in showers or aquatic areas. The entire property is a tobacco-free environment, and no alcohol, drugs, weapons, or fireworks are permitted. Surveillance cameras are used throughout the property for safety and security. Hammocks are allowed but cannot be more than three feet off the ground and cannot be stacked.

Relevant Q&A

Speaker: Can we mix and match tents? i.e. some scouts in the camp provided tents and some in personal tents?

John: Yes! Just let us know how many you need.

Speaker: How many tents can we reserve? We are coming with about 40 scouts.

John: As many as you need, 2 campers per tent.

Speaker: Are they the canvas style tents on a wooden platform?

John: Yes.

Speaker: If you bring a tent or not, all tents go on platforms? Is that right?

John: No, personal tents go on the ground unless there are platforms not in use, then they can be used.

Topic 3: New Camp Schedule and Program

The camp is implementing a new schedule format for 2026. Merit badges will be offered during four periods in the morning between breakfast and lunch. This timing helps avoid afternoon thunderstorms that typically occur in Colorado between 1-3pm. Afternoons will be spent as troop time with various scheduled activities including pool and lake time, zip line, climbing, archery, rifle/shotgun ranges, and service projects. Each troop will be assigned to a color group (Red, Green, Blue, Silver, Gold) that determines their activity rotation throughout the week. A new "grab bag" feature allows troops to visit select program areas to earn additional merit badges, awards, or participate in fun activities. Each program area will offer additional merit badges and four additional programs during grab bag periods. The schedule is designed to be flexible, allowing troops to substitute grab bag time

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for other activities if desired. Patrols within a troop can split up during grab bag time to pursue different interests.

Relevant Q&A

Speaker: Will trail to first class be the entire morning?

McNeil Scout Ranch: It is not the entire morning. If you sign up for Eagle Bound, it's going to be either first and second session, or third and fourth session. That way, they can still sign up for merit badges.

Speaker: Does the whole troop have to do the same grab bag activity? Or can scouts split up for what they want to do?

McNeil Scout Ranch: The answer is yes because we want to be as flexible as possible with you guys. So, if one patrol wants to go off and go to the handicrafts... Hawk Patrol, what do you guys want to do? Eagle patrol, what do you guys want to do? Dragon Patrol, what do you guys want to do?

Speaker: For the afternoon, will scouts participating in shooting sports be able to earn those merit badges in the afternoon or just the morning?

John: Just the morning, during merit badge period.

Speaker: Are there weight and age restrictions on the zip line?

McNeil Scout Ranch: All Scout BSA are at proper age to do the zip line. Weight, there are some weight restrictions... hovering around 85-95 pound as the minimum up to 290 for the top, but again, we're doing some more testing here this spring with new devices in the hopes that everybody can do it.

Topic 4: Health and Safety Procedures

The ranch maintains a well-stocked health lodge with a team trained to respond to both physical and mental health issues. The medical team includes a Mental Emotional Social Health (MeSH) specialist, a registered nurse, and EMTs under the guidance of the council medical director. All youth medications must be kept and administered by the health team at designated times: morning (6:30-8:30am), lunch (11:30am-1:00pm), dinner (5:30-7:30pm), and bedtime (8:30-9:30pm). Medications must be in original containers, and no pill organizers are permitted per Colorado state regulations. Emergency medications like inhalers and EpiPens can be carried with a completed Contract to Carry form. Adult

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leaders may keep their own medications but must secure them where youth cannot access them. The camp provides free over-the-counter medications at the health lodge. In case of emergency, campers should contact the nearest staff member rather than calling 911 directly, as staff can provide quicker communication with local EMS. The camp follows five emergency actions: HOLD, SECURE, EVACUATE, SHELTER, and LOCKDOWN, which will be explained during a drill on the first day of camp.

Relevant Q&A

Speaker: What about nasal sprays for kids who have nose bleeds at high altitudes? Can they carry those?

John: No, they will have to get them dispensed at the Health Lodge.

Speaker: Does the camp have lockers for adults to rent?

John: No.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Review the Program Guide which will be posted on the website after the meeting
- Sign up for text alerts for your camp week by texting the appropriate code to 81010
- Prepare to complete electronic medical forms in CampDoc when it becomes available in March
- Attend the next Leader's Meeting on March 18th at 7pm, which will focus on the Program Guide and merit badge offerings
- Consider completing unit swim checks prior to camp to expedite the check-in process
- Submit special dietary requests at least 3 weeks before camp

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Leader's Guide available at [ScoutingColorado.org/Dobbins](https://scoutingcolorado.org/Dobbins)
- Program Guide will be posted on the website after the meeting
- Black Pug Tutorials available on the website to help with the registration process
- Whitewater rafting registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/061-107774#>

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- Wood Badge course information for adult leader development
- Camp documents including swim classification forms, tent request forms, and special dietary request forms available on the website
- The Saga of Peaceful Valley document available for those interested in the 60th anniversary history