

## McNeil Scout Ranch – Camp Cris Dobbins

Leader's Meeting 3 – April 22, 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.**

### Quick recap

This was a Leaders Meeting for McNeil Scout Ranch's summer camp program, led by Jack with assistance from John and Krista. The meeting covered key information about summer camp preparations, including merit badge sign-ups, health and medical requirements, tent requests, and the check-in process. Jack announced upcoming theme days for 2026 (Mustache Monday, Troop Pride Tuesday, Yee Haw Wednesday, Aloha Thursday, and Tie-Dye Friday) and confirmed that whitewater rafting would proceed as planned despite low water levels. The meeting addressed questions about campsite assignments, zip line requirements (95-290 pound weight range for Scouts BSA), and adult leader opportunities including first aid and CPR training. Jack also announced that Camp Dietler would reopen for summer camp registrations starting May 1st, 2027, and invited attendees to the upcoming RANCH Hands service project on May 2nd.

### Upcoming Important Dates

Jack reviewed critical dates and deadlines for camp preparation.

- **Details**

- Jack: Emphasized the 11-day meeting as the most important deadline for tent requests, special dietary needs, and program sign-ups
- Jack: Explained the 11-day meeting serves as final opportunity to confirm information and make adjustments
- Jack: Noted May 1, 2026 as balance of registration due date
- Jack: Reminded participants to audit Black Pug registration and check Camp Doc completion

- **Conclusion**

- 11-day meetings scheduled for each camp session as critical checkpoint
- Multiple deadlines established for different camp preparation elements
- Participants should regularly check Black Pug and Camp Doc for accuracy

### Leader and Program Guides

Jack addressed the importance of using current versions of camp guides.

- **Details**

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- Jack: Warned that previously emailed or saved versions of guides may be outdated
- Jack: Directed participants to the Important Documents Links website for most up-to-date versions
- Jack: Noted there are minor changes but not drastic ones to the guides
- Jack: Recommended printing guides for each car and having senior patrol leaders review them

- **Conclusion**

- Most current guides available only on the official website
- All participants should access guides from the website rather than saved copies
- Senior patrol leaders should review guides as part of preparation

### **Text Messaging System**

Jack discussed plans for implementing a text messaging system for camp communications.

- **Details**

- Jack: Acknowledged text messaging system has been challenging to implement
- Jack: Expressed optimism about having a solution to share at 11-day meetings
- Jack: Explained system would allow camp to send reminders, weather updates, and emergency notifications to parents and leaders
- Jack: Invited participants to suggest text messaging systems they've used successfully

- **Conclusion**

- Text messaging system in development for camp communications
- Information will be shared at 11-day meetings

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- System will be available for parents and leaders to sign up

### **Tent Requests and Accommodations**

Jack explained the process for requesting camp-provided tents and accommodations.

- **Details**

- Jack: Directed participants to accommodations section on website to request camp-provided tents
- Jack: Clarified tent request form was activated the day of the meeting
- Jack: Explained no confirmation email is sent; confirmation happens at 11-day meeting when list is shared
- Jack: Stated final numbers needed no later than 11 days before camp session, with flexibility for last-minute adjustments
- Krista: Confirmed two adults per tent and two scouts per tent policy

- **Conclusion**

- Tent requests available through website accommodations link
- Confirmation provided at 11-day meeting, not immediately
- Camp can accommodate last-minute tent request changes if needed
- All tents provided free of charge upon request

### **Family Night Information**

Jack provided details about Friday family night events and requirements.

- **Details**

- Jack: Explained family night occurs every Friday with visitors arriving around 4:00 PM
- Jack: Noted meal tickets cost 10 dollars if joining for dinner; no ticket needed if not eating
- Jack: Clarified Family Night tickets and Visitor Special Dietary Request are two separate links on website

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- Jack: Reminded participants that visitors must check in at HQ building, no overnight stays allowed, and no pets or animals permitted

- **Conclusion**

- Family night held every Friday evening starting at 4:00 PM
- Separate registration required for meal tickets and special dietary needs
- Visitors must follow check-in procedures and camp policies

### **Waiver Requirements**

Jack reviewed which programs require waivers and how to complete them.

- **Details**

- Jack: Explained most waivers are built into Camp Doc system based on participant feedback
- Jack: Listed programs requiring waivers: ATVs, Next Level Range Adventure for Cowboy Action, and open Cowboy Action shoot
- Jack: Noted whitewater rafting waiver is separate through vendor, not in Camp Doc
- Jack: Reminded ATV participants must also complete online course and bring certificate to camp
- Jack: Stated experienced ATV course participants need ASI safety card

- **Conclusion**

- Most waivers completed through Camp Doc system
- Whitewater rafting requires separate vendor waiver
- ATV participants have additional online training requirement

### **Whitewater Rafting Program**

Jack and John provided comprehensive information about the whitewater rafting program.

- **Details**

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- Jack: Confirmed whitewater rafting is still on despite low water levels, with contact Travis from River Runners assuring program will proceed
- Jack: Explained two-step registration: Black Pug registration with camp and separate waiver through vendor
- Jack: Clarified registration and waivers are separate systems that don't communicate with each other
- John: Suggested units sign up participants while parents complete waivers
- John: Confirmed vendor provides all equipment including life jackets, wetsuits, and helmets
- John: Stated BSA swimmer classification not required by vendor
- Jack: Explained units must provide own transportation; camp has limited ability to help in special cases
- Jack: Confirmed drive time is approximately two hours each way
- Jack: Noted bagged breakfast and lunch provided for rafting day
- Javier: Asked about transportation plan and lunch
- John: Confirmed units provide transportation and receive sack lunch

• **Conclusion**

- Whitewater rafting confirmed for all sessions despite drought conditions
- Two-step process required: camp registration and vendor waiver
- Units responsible for transportation with limited camp assistance available
- All equipment provided by vendor; BSA swimmer classification not required
- Meals provided as bagged breakfast and lunch

**Theme Days for 2026**

Jack introduced new theme days for the camp week created by the program team.

• **Details**

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- Jack: Explained camp has overall weekly theme introduced at opening campfire and concluded at closing campfire
- Jack: Listed daily themes: Monday is Mustache Monday, Tuesday is Troop Pride day for scout t-shirts and troop items, Wednesday is Yee Haw day with western/cowboy theme, Thursday is Aloha Lake Party with Hawaiian shirts, Friday is Tie-Dye day
- Jack: Noted staff will be dressed up and may have items available, but participants should come prepared
- Jack: Mentioned possible rewards for troops with good participation rates
- **Conclusion**
  - Five theme days established for each camp week
  - Participants encouraged to bring appropriate clothing and items
  - Staff will participate and potential rewards offered for participation

### **Paperwork Checklist Reminders**

Jack reviewed comprehensive checklists for youth campers, adult campers, and whole units.

- **Details**
  - Jack: Presented youth camper checklist including medical forms Parts A, B, and C, insurance card copies, Colorado addendums for immunizations and additional information, contract to carry for emergency medications, special diet forms, and program-specific waivers
  - Jack: Emphasized physical evaluation must be within one year and cannot expire during camp with no exceptions
  - Jack: Presented adult camper checklist including medical forms, youth protection training certificate, Scouting America membership verification, special diet forms, and applicable waivers

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- Jack: Recommended printing checklists for troop meetings and assigning senior patrol leader to manage youth checklist and scoutmaster/committee chair to manage adult checklist
- Jack: Noted whole unit checklist includes swim classification record if completed before camp, unit arrival roster, seatbelt inventory, payment check, and family night visitor count
- Speaker: Asked about authorized adults for transportation in Camp Doc
- John: Explained transport section should list adult leaders carpooling to camp, while pickup section should include emergency contacts who could retrieve scouts if needed, not limited to leaders at camp

- **Conclusion**

- Three separate checklists provided for youth, adults, and whole unit
- Physical evaluations must be current with no exceptions
- Checklists recommended for distribution at troop meetings
- Swim classification can be completed before arrival to expedite check-in

### **Camp Doc Readiness**

Jack explained the process for ensuring all participants are registered in Camp Doc.

- **Details**

- Jack: Instructed participants to update information in Black Pug, which creates Camp Doc profiles within 24 hours
- Jack: Explained parents automatically receive emails inviting them to complete medical forms
- Jack: Directed participants to complete form requesting one person from unit have access to view all medical forms
- Jack: Stated access requests processed within 10 days, after which unit coordinator can check progress, edit, and print forms
- Jack: Emphasized no paper copies needed at camp

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- Jack: Reminded participants medical forms due 14 days in advance of camp session as Colorado requirement
- Speaker: Asked about dietary restrictions for individual scouts and adults
- John: Provided special diet form link that can be completed by parents, scouts, or adults

- **Conclusion**

- Black Pug registration automatically creates Camp Doc profiles
- One person per unit should request access to view all unit medical forms
- Medical forms must be completed 14 days before camp session
- No paper copies required at camp

### **Special Dietary Requests**

Jack reviewed the special dietary request process and accommodations.

- **Details**

- Jack: Stated special diet request forms due three weeks prior to camp if possible
- Jack: Acknowledged some requests may be last-minute but emphasized three-week deadline helps food service team prepare
- Jack: Listed accommodations available: gluten-free, vegetarian, dairy-free, vegan, nut-free, and some specific omissions
- Jack: Introduced Luke as returning food service director who excels at special dietary accommodations
- Jack: Encouraged participants to email Luke with any food service questions
- Speaker: Commented "Food is terrific!"

- **Conclusion**

- Special dietary requests due three weeks before camp session
- Camp accommodates gluten-free, vegetarian, dairy-free, vegan, nut-free diets

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- Food service director available for specific questions
- Last-minute requests accepted but advance notice preferred

### **Check-In Process**

Jack detailed the new streamlined check-in process for arriving at camp.

- **Details**

- Jack: Explained staggered arrival system with times listed by campsite
- Jack: Outlined process: park vehicles in main lot, load gear into one vehicle/trailer to take to campsite, unit leader and SPL check in at headquarters
- Jack: Emphasized campers should have medications, swimsuit, and towel easily accessible, not buried in luggage
- Jack: Noted those who completed pre-qualification can keep swimsuit packed, but everyone needs medications ready
- Jack: Explained campsite host meets unit at parking lot, takes group to McKenzie's Range for troop picture in Class A uniforms or troop shirts
- Jack: Described sequence: picture, dining hall orientation, pool for medical check-in and swim qualifications combined
- Jack: Stated units finished with swim checks are done after medical check-in; others proceed to swim qualifications at same location
- Jack: Explained new combined medical/swim check-in designed to give troops more time in campsites
- Jack: Listed check-in times: 1:00 PM for Creede, Santa Fe, Sedalia, Victor, Amarillo, Dodge, Wichita, Deadwood, Stillwater; 2:00 PM for Ogallala, Abilene, El Paso, Raton, Cripple Creek, Laredo, Billings
- Jack: Acknowledged difficulty of arriving exactly on time but requested best effort to maintain flow
- Tim: Asked about refrigeration for medications at pool
- John: Confirmed process in place to keep medications cool

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- **Conclusion**

- Staggered arrival times assigned by campsite to prevent headquarters congestion
- New streamlined process combines medical check-in and swim qualifications at pool
- Medications, swimsuits, and towels must be easily accessible upon arrival
- Check-in sequence: parking lot, troop picture, dining hall, pool, campsite
- Pre-qualified swimmers can skip swim test after medical check-in

### **GPS and Driving Directions**

Jack provided guidance on navigating to camp and avoiding GPS errors.

- **Details**

- Jack: Warned that GPS/maps sometimes direct to unmaintained dirt roads when searching for McNeil Scout Ranch
- Jack: Recommended using driving directions map on website or in leaders guide for paved routes
- Jack: Suggested using Elizabeth Walmart or Falcon Walmart as meeting place for troops traveling from Denver area
- Jack: Advised those coming from Kansas, Nebraska, or eastern areas can likely use GPS directly
- Jack: Recommended all troops meet at Walmart for restroom breaks and to regroup scattered vehicles
- Jack: Explained his personal method: enter Elizabeth into GPS, then enter McNeil Scout Ranch once in Elizabeth

- **Conclusion**

- GPS may provide incorrect routes to camp
- Website and leaders guide have accurate driving directions
- Elizabeth or Falcon Walmart recommended as meeting points

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- Eastern travelers can use GPS directly to camp

### **RANCH Hands Service Day**

Jack invited participants to RANCH Hands service weekend on May 2, 2026.

- **Details**

- Jack: Announced RANCH Hands on Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- Jack: Described event as service day helping prepare camp for summer season
- Jack: Noted lunch and dinner provided on Saturday
- Jack: Explained troops can camp Friday through Sunday for free
- Jack: Mentioned OA induction weekend occurs simultaneously
- Jack: Stated adults can sign up without restrictions; youth participate as part of registered unit
- Jack: Provided QR code for registration and campsite selection

- **Conclusion**

- RANCH Hands service day scheduled for May 2, 2026
- Free camping weekend with meals provided
- Opportunity for service hours and conservation work
- Units must register through provided link

### **Summer Camp 2027 Registration**

Jack announced registration opening for 2027 summer camp season.

- **Details**

- Jack: Announced summer camp 2027 registrations open May 1st
- Jack: Revealed Camp Dietler will reopen for 2027, first summer since 2019
- Jack: Explained McNeil Scout Ranch has three sub-camps: Magness, Dobbins, and Dietler

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- Jack: Noted Magness used for NYLT and Dietler returning for summer camp
- Cindy Powell: Posted "Yeah for Camp Dietler!!"
- Speaker: Posted "WOW"

- **Conclusion**

- 2027 registration opens May 1st for both Dobbins and Dietler
- Camp Dietler reopening after closure since 2019
- Early registration opportunity for returning troops

## **Camp Staffing Update**

Jack provided update on summer camp staffing situation.

- **Details**

- Jack: Announced full staff roster with almost too many staffers
- Jack: Noted many returning faces and new faces, all excited
- Jack: Stated only hiring cooks and dishwashers as can never have too many
- Jack: Explained more hands means less work in large dining hall
- Jack: Expressed satisfaction with large cook and dishwasher teams already assembled

- **Conclusion**

- Camp fully staffed for summer 2026
- Only cook and dishwasher positions still accepting applications
- Strong mix of returning and new staff members

## **Contact Information**

Jack reviewed contact information for various camp departments and questions.

- **Details**

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- Jack: Provided general email McNeilScoutRanch@Scouting.org for general questions
- Jack: Listed MSRHealth@Scouting.org as fastest way to get Camp Doc questions answered, monitored by health aide working remotely
- Jack: Gave his email Jack.Loats@Scouting.org for specific or unusual questions
- Jack: Provided MSRDobbinsProgram@Scouting.org for program-related questions about merit badges, theme, and logistics
- Jack: Noted John.Braselton@Scouting.org as catch-all for everything, especially Camp Doc
- Jack: Listed Krista.Katsirebas@Scouting.org as quickest contact for registration questions, adding/removing people, and campsite information

#### • **Conclusion**

- Multiple specialized email addresses provided for different question types
- Health team email fastest for Camp Doc issues
- Krista handles all registration-related matters
- John serves as general resource for multiple areas

### **Campsite Assignments and Requests**

John raised questions from chat about campsite assignments and requests to move sites.

#### • **Details**

- John: Noted multiple questions about how to find campsite assignments and requests to move sites
- John: Mentioned some troops had to register in two different campsites due to space availability
- Jack: Explained campsite visible in Black Pug registration
- Jack: Committed to checking all campsites with Krista the next day
- Jack: Promised to send communication confirming selected campsites

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- Jack: Acknowledged capacity issues as limitation of Black Pug system
- Jack: Assured camp can accommodate and help with campsite consolidation requests
- Krista: Confirmed she and Jack would review campsites the next day

• **Conclusion**

- Campsite assignments visible in Black Pug registration
- Jack and Krista to review and confirm all campsite assignments
- Camp will work to consolidate troops split between multiple sites
- Communication about campsite assignments to be sent following review

**Zip Line Information**

John asked Jack to address zip line weight requirements and operations.

• **Details**

- Jack: Explained standard operating procedures for zip line currently being created with Aerial Sports Committee
- Jack: Stated any Scouts BSA age can use zip line; Cub Scouts cannot
- Jack: Provided approximate weight range of 95 to 290 pounds, noting not set in stone
- Jack: Explained weight requirements depend on wind conditions, making it difficult to set fixed numbers
- Jack: Noted 95-pound minimum includes backpack weight; some scouts given backpacks to reach minimum
- Jack: Listed zip line operation times: during color group troop-based activities, Monday and Tuesday evenings 7:00-9:30 PM, all day Wednesday, Thursday morning for adult leaders
- Jack: Recommended contacting him directly for detailed zip line questions
- Speaker: Asked if adults can only go on zip line on Thursday

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- John: Clarified adults can go with their unit; Thursday is adult-leader-only time

- **Conclusion**

- Zip line available to all Scouts BSA ages, not Cub Scouts
- Weight range approximately 95-290 pounds, subject to wind conditions
- Multiple operation times throughout week including dedicated adult leader time
- Standard operating procedures being finalized with Aerial Sports Committee

### **Adult Leader Opportunities and Training**

John reminded Jack about adult leader opportunities that were not included in slides.

- **Details**

- Jack: Apologized for forgetting to include adult leader opportunities in slides despite asking Krista to prepare information
- Jack: Explained online sign-up created based on overwhelming survey response requesting advance registration
- Jack: Listed available trainings: Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills, Wilderness First Aid, CPR and First Aid as separate courses, cold water immersion
- Jack: Mentioned additional trainings possible based on trainer availability, such as COPE Level 1 course
- Jack: Explained some trainings like COPE Level 1 would be discussed at camp with flexible scheduling
- Jack: Noted other possible trainings include watercraft, safety afloat, and safe swim defense
- Jack: Stated trainers available on camp but difficult to schedule into fixed time slots
- Jack: Promised to send information in follow-up emails and cover at 11-day meetings

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- Krista: Confirmed offerings depend on staffing and weather, taking requests for additional trainings via email
- Speaker: Asked about Swim and Water Rescue training
- Krista: Responded to send email with training requests
- Michelle Law: Asked about documentation for out-of-council participants
- John: Confirmed documentation available

• **Conclusion**

- Online sign-up for adult leader opportunities to be shared soon
- Multiple training courses available including IOLS, Wilderness First Aid, CPR/First Aid
- Additional trainings possible based on staff availability and participant requests
- Information to be sent via email and discussed at 11-day meetings

**Color Group Assignments**

John asked when troops find out their color group assignments.

• **Details**

- Jack: Stated color group assignments revealed at 11-day meeting
- Jack: Explained this is homework assignment for Senior Patrol Leader
- Jack: Noted SPL receives grab bag and troop time organizer to schedule desired activities
- Javier: Asked if SPLs required to attend 11-day meeting
- John: Responded not required but may be useful

• **Conclusion**

- Color groups announced at 11-day meeting
- SPL responsible for scheduling troop activities based on color group
- SPL attendance at 11-day meeting helpful but not required

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### **Wednesday Activities for Non-Rafting Participants**

John asked about activities available for those not participating in whitewater rafting.

- **Details**

- Jack: Described Wednesday as essentially a free day with all areas open
- Jack: Listed available activities: Cowboy Action second session, zip line open all day, merit badge work, new merit badge starts, grab bag opportunities
- Jack: Stated breakfast to lunch is giant free day sculpted around scout preferences
- Jack: Explained after lunch includes Coulter's Run relay race with 11-12 stations around camp involving activities at various lodges
- Jack: Mentioned interfaith chapel services Wednesday night
- Jack: Noted rest of evening is inside troop time after chapel service
- Jack: Described Wednesday as breather in middle of week
- Speaker: Asked about patch trading
- Krista: Confirmed no specific time but scouts welcome to trade while at camp

- **Conclusion**

- Wednesday offers extensive free time and open program areas
- Multiple activities available including Cowboy Action, zip line, merit badges
- Coulter's Run relay race held Wednesday afternoon
- Chapel services and troop time in evening

### **Cowboy Action Age Requirements**

John asked about minimum age for Cowboy Action program.

- **Details**

- Jack: Initially stated uncertainty about minimum age requirement

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- Jack: Believed no minimum age since it's structured program with waiver that everyone can do
- Jack: Committed to double-checking and adding to next day's task list
- **Conclusion**
  - Minimum age for Cowboy Action to be confirmed
  - Jack to verify and communicate information