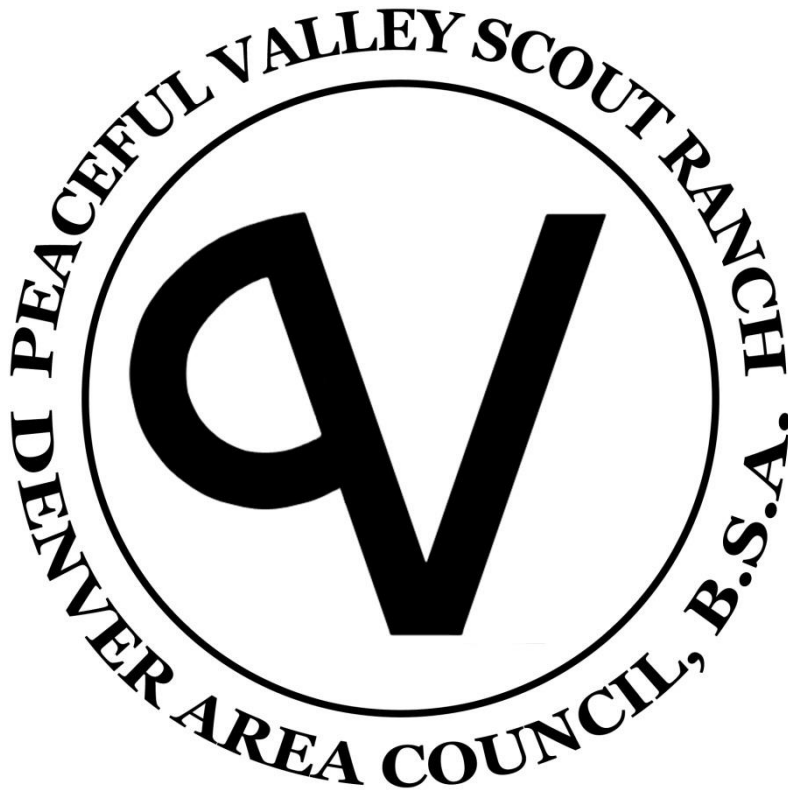


**Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch
Guide
for
Leaders and Campers**



About This Guide

On land that is rich with Western history, Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch is located in central Colorado, 65 miles southeast of Denver, a few miles south of the town of Elbert. The Ranch consists of 3,316 acres of mountain park terrain at 7,000 feet in elevation along the Palmer Divide in the Black Forest. Peaceful Valley also functions as a working ranch and farm throughout the year, with over 1,000 acres devoted to cattle grazing and various crops.

Peaceful Valley serves thousands of Scouts and their families each year at three distinct camps. Those camps, listed below, and the thousands of acres of open land, provide opportunities for programs all year long. Whether you are staying for an entire week at a summer residential camp, participating in a Venturing weekend with your crew, renting a cabin for a winter Troop campout, or attending one of the many community and private events which occur on the PV land, this guide is for you. The following pages provide basic information about Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch, the facilities available there, and the procedures to know about year round. Your specific program or event almost certainly has its own guide as well, which you should use in combination with this one to get the fullest PVSR experience possible.

Residential Camps at Peaceful Valley

Camp Cris Dobbins

Camp Dobbins offers your traditional dining hall style summer camp that provides a level of enthusiasm and Scouting spirit that can't be matched. With a commitment to high quality merit badge instruction and programs that will challenge any Scout's abilities, Cris Dobbins is where the Scout Oath and Law come to life.

Camp Cortlandt Dietler

Camp Dietler is a "back to basics" patrol cooking adventure camp and is one of the best in the country! This theme can be seen throughout a program that focuses on traditional Scouting skills. The program is designed to build and strengthen the troop and patrol methods while advancing Scouts outdoor knowledge. The camp provides unique learning opportunities and specialized adventure activities that can only occur in this long-term camp environment.

Magness Adventure Camp

Our Cub Scout camp, located on the west side of the ranch, offers three-day Cub Scout programs twice weekly. The program for 2013 will feature new and exciting activities for every participant while expanding their Scouting skills. All Cub leaders should check the council website to get the latest details.

A Brief History of Peaceful Valley

For thousands of years, the Arapaho and Kiowa Indians inhabited the land that is now Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch. A few signs of their time remain with us. Before the Spanish brought horses to North America, hunters on foot would drive buffalo over small cliffs, known as buffalo drops. On the ranch mesa, it is still possible to see signs of both buffalo wallows and drops.



In the late 1800s, the Native Americans were forced from their ancestral lands by European settlers. These early frontiersmen built small homesteads, traces of which can still be found in several isolated parts of the ranch. One of the more visible ruins is located in the valley below Ship Rock.

Early settlers found many things they needed to establish their homes. Maps of Colorado from the turn of the century show a saw mill just south of the ranch. The ranch had a good stand of white pine, which was used for lumber to build many of the buildings in Elbert, and also in Denver and Colorado Springs. However, all the white pine was logged off, and none can be found on the ranch today.

The farms in the valley around 1900 were very productive, thanks in large part to Kiowa Creek. The creek is still considered to be one of the best water sources in the county. For awhile, potato farming worked well on mesa fields, but an infestation ended that crop. Dairy cattle were a mainstay of many farms; an old milk house was found on the ranch but has since been removed.

The Kiowa Creek valley was so prosperous that a railway was constructed in the early 1900s. The “New Orleans and Colorado Springs Line” gave farmers a link to markets in both Denver and Colorado Springs. In 1935, the railroad was heavily damaged by flooding, and not repaired. Another flood in 1965 washed away the remaining structures, but traces of railroad bridge pilings can still be found on the ranch near the horse stables, and occasional sections of roadbed are visible on the east side of the valley.

As the valley grew, so did the farms and ranches. Our ranch buildings help to tell the story. In the late 1800s, the ranch owners and their large family lived in a one-room cabin just south of Elbert, on the north end of what became known as Peaceful Valley Ranch. In the 1920s, the owners constructed a three-bedroom home known today as the Bunkhouse. Today’s ranch house followed, in the early 1930s. This four-bedroom home was built from a kit purchased from Sears and Roebuck! The barn was built in the same period. Horses were kept on the second level, reached by a large earthen ramp. Cattle were kept on the lower level. If you visit the barn, note the heavy timbers that support the second floor.

The Beginnings of Scouting at Peaceful Valley

In the 1950s, the Scouting movement was expanding rapidly, along with the nation's postwar population. The Council's existing camp, Camp Tahosa, was too small to support the future needs of the Denver area, and the search for a replacement began. In 1961, the Council purchased the 2,500 acre Peaceful Valley Ranch from the Abrahamson family.

Initial construction of Scout facilities took place in 1961-1963. Some of the old ranch buildings and equipment were removed and roads were opened. The brown lodge buildings we use today were constructed from kits. The Navy SeaBees, as part of their training process, provided most of the labor; a memorial to them can be found near the office at Dobbins. In 1965, Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch opened to campers. Tahosa was still the Council's main camp, so activity and expansion was limited to unit camping and a very small summer operation.

Peaceful Valley Develops

Toward the end of the 1970s, the Council concluded that Tahosa would need to be replaced soon. Facilities at PV were expanded as much as the limited budget would permit. The Gates family, which had long operated prosperous rubber-products plants in Denver, funded construction of the old swimming pool. These remains are located southeast of headquarters.

The first "real" summer camp took place in 1981 -- four weeks of camp, and a total of 480 campers! Food was prepared at the ranch house, which had become the ranger's home, and delivered to camp. Campers ate in a tent, and got their meals from a counter located in what is now the Jackson QM (named in honor of Sam Jackson and his wife, Edna, the first ranch rangers and operators of that early camp). Camp was great, and the drive to expand had started!

In 1983-1984, a 19 acre lake, at the site of a flood control dam, was dedicated to Harold Silver, a past council president. The current William R. Kephart Dining Hall opened in 1986. Mr. Kephart was Scout Executive in that period, and was a major force behind the expansion of PV.

The original camp facilities were renamed in honor of Cris Dobbins, who was a major contributor for the expansion. He had been successful in the energy business. On his death in 1987, he left a major endowment fund to the Council, with the stipulation that its income be used only for camp maintenance.

During the late 1980s, development of what is now Camp Dietler began. The camp opened as Camp Colorado in 1990. It was renamed Camp Cortlandt Dietler in 1993. Mr. Dietler, who owned an oil and gas company, and was an active member of the Council Board of Trustees, made a generous gift to support programs at Camp Dietler.

As the Council grew, the need arose for a dedicated Cub Scout camping facility. Planning began for development of a new camp on the west side of the ranch. Initial construction took place during 1992-1993. The facility opened as Camp Adventure in the summer of 1994. In 1996, shortly before his death, it was renamed for Bob Magness, a very successful Denver cable television operator.

Peaceful Valley remains a working ranch. Approximately 1,000 acres are set aside for crops and cattle. The "cash crops" of alfalfa, wheat, and oats are used to feed ranch livestock, as well as for sale. Income from the ranching operation helps provide for ranch maintenance and operation.

Getting to Peaceful Valley

How to Get to Peaceful Valley

From Denver, take I-25 south to Exit 184 onto Founders Parkway near Castle Rock. Turn left at stop sign to Founders Parkway. Take Founders Parkway to traffic light (Highway 86 intersection). Turn left at stoplight onto Highway 86 and follow Highway 86 through Franktown and traffic signal at Parker Road. Continue on Highway 86 through Elizabeth until you come to Elbert Highway on your right (just before the town of Kiowa). Turn on Elbert Highway and continue through the town of Elbert. Turn into Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch at the second entrance. Camp Dobbins and Camp Dietler are on the left. Magness Adventure Camp is on the right. The address is:

22799 North Elbert Road
Box 97
Elbert, Colorado 80106-0097



Staffing

Throughout the year, PVSR is permanent home to only a few full time employees of Denver Area Council. The Ranch Superintendent and Ranger, and members of their families, call PV home year- round. These two work to maintain the property and coordinate its use with various groups. The director of your program or event should be able to contact one of these two by radio.

During the residential summer camp season nearly 200 staff members live on ranch full time. These include several trained medics and National Camp School certified Camp Directors, Program Directors, Shooting Program Directors, and Commissioners. The staff can take care of almost any need for you and are happy to help you.

Council Policies

While at Peaceful Valley there are several basic policies we ask you follow.

Bicycles – Helmets are required at all times, and lights are required at night. Cycling is allowed only on roads and designated bike trails, not on walking trails.

Camp Property – Use only the buildings, areas, and property that you have permission to use. Be sure to return anything you use, and let the Superintendent or Ranger know if anything like propane or cleaning supplies is running low.

Media – in some cases, such as tornadoes, news outlets and reporters come to Peaceful Valley. In such cases please direct them to the headquarters building or Ranch House to check in.

Personal Property – it is highly encouraged that anything brought to Peaceful Valley has your name, troop number, council initials, and phone number on it. Valuables and electronics are likely to get damaged or lost.

Wild Animals – PVSR has many wild animals, large and small. Keep food securely stored in vehicles and sealed containers. Do not store food in tents. Remove trash promptly and do not leave full bags outside overnight.

Fires – Elbert County often has a fire ban. Be sure to check with the Superintendent or Ranger for current fire ban conditions before any type of fire.

Camp Cris Dobbins Emergency Procedures

During the summer season, emergency medical services are available at all times on the ranch. **If you need medical treatment of any kind, find a Leadership Team member to help you.** The ranch has an established link to authorities.

During the off season, call 911 and then contact the Ranch Superintendent or Ranger.

Severe Weather

In the event of severe weather, follow these guidelines: Seek shelter in buildings or tents. Stay out of open areas. Stay off the lakes and out of the pool. The area directors can inform you of more specific safety precautions at each area. When in doubt, ask a camp Leadership Team member. Program areas may be closed and the pool and lakes will close for a minimum of 30 minutes after thunder and 1 hour after lightning.

Lightning

If lightning becomes a serious threat, immediately take precautions. Get out of open areas, and off of high ridges. The best shelter is in a nearby building. Do not cross a large open area to get to a building if the storm is close! If a building is not available, seek shelter in the “cone of safety” extending down at a 45-degree angle from a cliff face, but don’t contact the cliff. Stay in dense forest areas. Don’t be the highest point in an open area! Avoid close proximity to walls, fences, plumbing, tent poles, trees, or large metal objects. Avoid shallow depressions. Remove packs with frames. A group of people should spread out. Unless in a building, squat down on only your feet. If strikes are near, keep your mouth open to minimize ear damage from pressure change.

Tornado

In the event of a tornado, you will hear a wavy tone on the camp emergency siren. If you can do so safely, make your way to Gilwell Hall, located under the Dining Hall. If there is an immediate danger, lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression. When you hear a steady siren, return to Gilwell Hall (the basement of the Dining Hall) and wait for instructions from the camp Leadership Team. Bring your unit roster so you can complete a roll call. **DO NOT SEEK SHELTER IN ANY BUILDING BUT GILWELL HALL!**

Fire

If you see or suspect a fire, notify the camp Leadership Team immediately. Do not try to put out the fire yourself. If a serious fire has been reported, you will hear a steady tone on the camp emergency siren. Go immediately to the McKenzie Range (the main flagpoles) and stay off roadways, so that emergency vehicles may pass quickly and safely.

Lost Person

For a lost person, check their tent and surrounding campsite. Then check their last known program area or location, and the trading post. If the person cannot be found promptly, immediately notify the camp Leadership Team while continuing to search.

Carry Car Keys and a Troop Roster

When we assemble after an emergency, we will ask unit leaders to account for all those on your roster. The process will go quicker if you have a roster copy. Adults should always carry a roster while in camp. If it becomes necessary to evacuate camp, we will rely on your drivers for transportation. You may not be able to return to the campsite. Drivers should carry their keys at all times.

Non-Scout groups using Peaceful Valley and off-season Scout groups should have rosters as well. In the event of an evacuation or emergency it is important to be able to account for everyone in a group.

Contacting Families in an Emergency

If your troop should have a need to contact the families of campers, we recommend you set up a “phone tree” suitable to your situation, so that a unit leader can contact one or two people back home, and they can contact families. The unit leaders should carry this information with them at all times.

Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch Emergency Drill

On opening day of each camp program at the parent/leader meeting, the camp director will review camp emergency procedures as listed above. With respect to emergency drills, the parents/leaders will be informed that the camp will have an emergency drill at the first flag ceremony on Sunday night.

Accident and Sickness Insurance

The Denver Area Council has purchased accident and sickness insurance for every Scout and leader. This coverage is excess insurance to any health or accident insurance that a family may already have in place. This coverage is primary only if no other insurance is available. This insurance covers all authorized camp program activities while in camp. This insurance does not cover the co-payments for a family's primary insurance. All

claims are handled directly with the insurance company. For questions, contact Valerie Villanueva at the Frederic C. Hamilton Scout Headquarters, 303-455-5522 x 2107.

Motor Vehicles

At all times, including check-in and check-out, only one vehicle per unit will be allowed on the service road to the campsite; please do not leave the roadways or drive directly into your campsite. A unit trailer may be kept in the parking area at the campsite. All other vehicles must park at the Camp Dobbins parking area. Campers and motor homes are not allowed at this parking area, but can be parked at the Camp Dietler parking area. There are no hookups or dumping stations however. Vehicles should not be moved during the week.

Drivers should keep their car keys with them at all times so they can assist in emergency evacuations. If you have a Scout or adult with special mobility needs, a permit can be obtained from the office to drive this individual around the ranch.

Scouts and leaders are prohibited from riding in the back of pickup trucks or trailers. Each occupant of a vehicle should have a proper seat and use a seat belt. Drivers of vehicles must be at least 18 years of age, with a current driver's license. The maximum speed limit for vehicles on camp is 15 mph.

Unit Leader First Aid

We encourage you to provide first aid for minor cuts, small blisters, etc. using your unit first aid kit. For anything more serious, and any situations requiring medication, please use the Health Lodge -- while in camp, you must operate under Colorado Child Care regulations, and are prohibited from dispensing medications. Watch for symptoms, including the most common ailments of dehydration, nosebleed, hypothermia, and diarrhea. We recommend that every unit have one adult leader in camp that has training equivalent to the First Aid Merit Badge. The Red Cross offers several excellent "Community First Aid" courses.

Other Health and Safety Concerns

Guns, ammunition, and archery equipment are to be left at home. The ranch will provide rifles and ammunition and bows and arrows at shooting sports areas. Any event providing its own firearms must coordinate with the Council office.

Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and fireworks are not permitted in any Scout camp. Possession or use of them on ranch property is cause for immediate removal from camp. In addition, use of illegal drugs will be reported to local authorities.

No Smoking in any camp buildings on the ranch. If you do smoke, be aware that due to the fire hazard, smoking is strictly limited to your vehicle in the parking lot or in the designated smoking area behind the Dining Hall. Youth may not use tobacco at any time or any location.

Fire - Self-contained stoves and lanterns may be used, but not in tents. **Open fires are not allowed.** Charcoal fires for unit cooking may be allowed in approved containers with Leadership Team supervision. You must check with camp management before starting a charcoal fire. Liquid fuels or starters shall not be used for starting any type of fire, including damp wood, charcoal, and ceremonial fires. Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch follows the recommendations of the Elbert Fire Protection District. Fire ban updates are posted online at the Denver Area Council website.

The Buddy System - Before troops arrive at camp, they should discuss the buddy system with their Scouts. It is expected that Scouts practice the Buddy System while at camp.

Homesickness – Unit leaders are responsible for working with homesick youth. Seasoned Scoutmasters all have their own ways to deal with the problem. The best “cure” is to be available and patient, keep the Scout busy, and link him up with an understanding older Scout. While we do not encourage campers to call home, remember that it is not a good policy to prevent a Scout from calling his family. In some situations, doing so might be considered a violation of Youth Protection guidelines. To avoid ill will or worse consequences, please leave the final decision on calling home to the boy.

Pets are not allowed.

Bicycles - We will provide bikes and helmets for cycling programs. Youth may not bring bicycles to camp unless enrolled in the Cycling Merit Badge. Youth may not ride bicycles on camp except during merit badge classes or authorized counselor-led programs. All personal bicycles brought by youth must be kept locked up at the Adventure Lodge (Fort Laramie) when not in use. Adult leaders and camp employees may bring and use their own bicycles, and may keep them in their campsites. Helmets must be worn properly at all times. Bicycles are allowed on the service roads only. Use a light after dark.

Damage to Camp Equipment and Facilities

Each unit is responsible for taking care of the camp equipment that has been assigned for their use. In the case of damage to this equipment, the unit and unit leaders are responsible for paying for repairs or replacement. You and your campsite host will jointly inspect all tents and equipment when you arrive and will then check the equipment when you leave. Fees will be charged for damage on the basis of repair costs or replacement costs estimated by the Ranch Superintendent.