

Camp Cris Dobbins Parent Information Meeting

June 19 – June 25, 2016



Important Deadlines

- March 31: First payment of \$150
- April 22: Second payment of \$210 + program fees
- BSA Swim Tests: April 1, 22 and 29
- May 5: BSA Medical Form
- May 5: Colorado Health Form Addendum
- May 5: Troop 114 Liability Release

Depart / Return

- June 19 – Meet at 11:00 AM at the Littleton Historical Museum, 6028 S Gallup St, 80120. Bring sack lunch for the drive. Our first meal is dinner.
- June 25 – Arrive at ~10:30 AM at the Scout Hut
- We will need drivers!

Cost – \$360 registration fee, plus cost for merit badges & activities, and spending money

- March 31 - \$150
- April 21 - \$210 + program fees
- Camperships available through Denver Area Council and Troop 114.

Swim Test – ALL scouts must take the BSA swim test prior to leaving for camp. Troop 114 will offer swim tests on April 1, 22 and 29 as part of the swimming merit badge pool nights.

Med forms & Meds

- Required BSA medical form – requires parts A, B and C. Part C must be signed by a doctor.
http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf
- Required Colorado Health Form Addendum –
<http://www.bsacoloradoadventure.org/document/colorado-health-form-addendum>
- Deadline to submit both medical forms to Larry Allen is May 5.
- Meds – all Rx and over-the-counter must be listed on the Troop Liability Release and turn in to Scoutmaster prior to departure. All meds **MUST** be in their original containers with directions.

Class Registration

- Complete the sign-up form to submit requests for classes and merit badges.
http://media.wix.com/ugd/1cc746_330fc133aca84955b20d7a2c12f1dcd.pdf
- Submit your class / merit badge sheet by April 7 to help insure your first choice.

Other Required Paperwork

Troop 114 Liability release.

http://media.wix.com/ugd/1cc746_569697a551a8494bb253e476d7e5a04a.pdf

What to bring

- See Summer Camp Packing List - http://media.wix.com/ugd/1cc746_d98470bf1679436d967ecd60d44d943a.pdf
- Cots are recommended
- NO electronics
- NO cell phones
- Money – Camp recommends ~\$75 for souvenirs, snacks, etc. at Trading Post

Trading Post – Sells program items, craft items, apparel, gifts and food items.

At Camp

- 15+ scouts and 3 adult leaders attending. Looking for one more adult.
- Troop patrols and youth leadership
- Home sickness
- Health Lodge is on camp and staffed with BSA approved medical personnel.

Program

- Typical day at Camp Dobbins
- Eagle Bound
- Merit Badges
- Evening activities: merit badges, campfires, “troop time” activities, open camp activities

Scoutmaster Contact Info

- Jonathan Tarr, 720-219-1481 (mobile), JonathanTarr@yahoo.com. Cell coverage is poor. Please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Camp Contact, Mail, and Care Packages

Camp Cris Dobbins Number: 303.648.3023 Fax Number: 303.648.3345

A letter, postcard, or “goodie package” from home is one of the greatest cures for homesickness! Please do not wait too long to mail your letter or package, as mail moves slower in rural areas. Please address mail as follows:

Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch
 Camp Cris Dobbins
 Name of participant, Troop Number
 22799 North Elbert Road, Box 97
 Elbert, Colorado 80106-0097

Alternatively, you can purchase a Camp Care Package for your Scout with the click of a button by visiting our website, www.bsacoloroadventure.org. These packages can include a variety of gifts, ranging from candy and clothing, or soda float parties and ice cream socials.

Phone Messages

Please call the Camp Cris Dobbins at 303.648.3023 to convey a message to someone at camp. If no one picks up, please leave a message. It is a large ranch, so your patience is appreciated while we deliver your message.

Trading Post

Camp Cris Dobbins has its own trading post, where Scouts can purchase supplies, Peaceful Valley and Cris Dobbins souvenirs, snacks, drinks, and other incidental items that may have been left at home. Our experience shows \$75-\$100 is enough for Scouts to meet most souvenir and concession needs during the week. Additional money might be needed for more expensive items like Columbia Outdoor Gear, or if merit badges have required kits, like Leatherwork, Basketry, Woodcarving, Pottery, and Indian Lore. The trading post accepts Mastercard, Visa, Discover, Travelers Checks, and cash.

Visitors – Family Night

One of the highlights at Camp Cris Dobbins is Family Night! Parents, family, and friends are encouraged to visit the camp Friday, eat supper with their Scout, and then join us for closing campfire. Dinner starts at 4:30 p.m., but you may arrive at any point in the day on Friday. All visitors must sign in at Headquarters upon arrival, where they can also purchase meal tickets for \$8.50.

Any parents wishing to pick up their child and leave after the campfire **MUST** checkout with the Scoutmaster and staff at Headquarters. Campers will only be released by the Scoutmaster to their parent/guardian or to a pre-approved person that is specified in writing by the parent or guardian.

Directions to Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch

The physical address of Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch is 22799 North Elbert Road, Elbert, Colorado, 80106.

From Denver:

- I-25 S to Colorado Springs 26.2 miles
- Take Exit 184 for US-85 N/Meadows Pkwy toward CO-86 E/Founders Pkwy .3 miles
- Turn left onto Meadows Pkwy .2 miles
- Continue onto Founders Pkwy .7 miles
- Slight right to stay on Founders Pkwy 3.6 miles
- Turn left onto CO-86 20.6 miles
- Turn right onto N Elbert Rd 10.2 miles
- Continue through the town of Elbert 11 miles
- Turn left on to Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch at the second entrance, and follow signs for Camp Cris Dobbins.

For More Information

- Camp Cris Dobbins Web Site: <http://www.denverboyscouts.org/camping/boy-scouts/peaceful-valley/camp-cris-dobbins/46004>
- Troop 114 Web Site: Click on the “Cris Dobbins” button on the Troop home page. Troop-114.org

The Homesick Scout

By Fr. Francis Schwartz. From the Canyon Camp Leaders Guide, courtesy of the Blackhawk Area Council, BSA; Rockford IL.

Homesickness is described psychologically as a "manifestation of separation anxiety" or the "unconscious defense mechanism called regression." The Camp Director and Scoutmaster describe it as "the longing for home." Many a young camper would put it more clearly as "that terrible feeling in the pit of my stomach." Regardless of how homesickness is defined, it is, indeed experienced in varying degrees by Scouts who come to camp.

What causes homesickness? It is a product of a happy home life, and it occurs often in a child who misses the warmth and security that comes from a good relationship with family and friends. Homesickness is also a problem for a child whose parents are anxious about his welfare. A parent who will miss the child while he is at camp or worries that the camping experience will be unhappy often transmits this fear to the Scout. In short, while at camp, the boy often feels the anxiety of his parents and fulfills their expectations that he will miss home and not enjoy camp by becoming homesick.

Homesickness often produces regressive behavior in a child. In order to cope with the situation he will revert to behavior used at an earlier age to gain attention. Sometimes a boy will cry easily, wet the bed, or withdraw from others. When a boy who is normally sociable and active suddenly becomes quiet, alone and disinterested in what is happening around him, this can be a sign of homesickness.

The treatment of homesickness is not simple. It involves the active participation of the Scoutmaster, troop members, camp staff, and often firm, but understanding parents. When homesickness is detected, the youth must be listened to and his feelings understood. Often an understanding person, willing to listen and empathize is all that is needed. Any unusual behavior patterns that have developed, such as bedwetting must be taken in stride and not be overly emphasized. Next, the boy must be kept active and interested in some phase of camp life. An effort must be made to make the Scout part of the Troop and a part of all the camp's activities so that he can make friends. If parents are contacted, they should do all in their power to avoid promising the Scout may come home, unless advised to do so by the Camp Director and Scoutmaster. If a Scout is ready to leave for camp, avoid a dramatic departure scene. However, it is our experience that once a Scout leaves a summer camp experience because of homesickness, he may not ever return to another summer camp.

Homesickness can be prevented. Parents are the best preventers. Parents must not promise their child that, if he doesn't like it he can come home. This promise sets the boy up for defeat. Parents must try to transmit positive messages about camp, emphasizing that his days at camp will be a worthwhile experience, and that they are happy he is going. If a child wishes to take something special with him that reminds him of home, such as a pillow, blanket or toy, he should be encouraged to do so. This special object will be a reminder of and link to home. Do not tell a Scout to telephone if he needs anything. Such advice could be contrary to the camp policy against indiscriminate use of phones. Also, more than likely the Scout calling home does not reach the parent but a voice message – such a voice message makes the situation worse for both the Scout and the Parent listening to the Scout at a later time.

While the boy is at camp, letters can provide a bond with home during separation. The tone of the letter and its contents have a great effect on the production of homesickness. The letters should be conversational about events at home and ask questions about the Scouts experience at camp. They should never contain such lines as "We all miss you very much; we love you so." "Your dog hasn't eaten since you left." "We served your favorite meal last night, too bad you could not be with us to eat it." Items that may cause jealousy should also be avoided like "Yesterday, we bought your brother a new bike". Campers sometimes break into tears after reading such well-intentioned letters from home.

Homesickness is a common occurrence, and if faced with understanding and care is just another step in the process of growing up. Parents, members of the Troop, and the Camp Staff should all be aware of its causes, means of prevention, and above all, its cure. The cure is simply a great deal of understanding, and willingness to help another person deal with his feelings while getting involved in the Scouting Program.

