



To our Neighbors of the Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch and Residents of Elbert County,

For more than forty years, the Denver Boy Scouts have enjoyed the beauty of Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch and the friendship of our neighbors. Since 1965, the Ranch has been instrumental in developing Scouts and helping them earn merit badges including backpacking, camping, first aid, lifesaving and shooting safety. Such programs are helping build tomorrow's leaders today.

We take our role in the community seriously and strive to always be a good and cooperative neighbor. We've sometimes stumbled along the way, but have attempted to resolve situations quickly and openly once they are called to our attention.

One such situation involves a fund-raising event held on the property in May. Unfortunately, we did not obtain a permit to hold the event as we were unaware we needed to do so. Another misstep was not informing our Peaceful Valley neighbors of the event or the possible impact it might have on them. As a consequence, concerns were raised by our valued neighbors about the level of noise and traffic the event produced, as well as the potential impact on wildlife in the area. Originally, we intended to hold five similar events throughout the coming months, but based upon our neighbors' input we are seriously re-evaluating those events.

Because being a good neighbor is most important to us, we are in the process of crafting a solution that will serve all parties involved. In the meantime, several independent impact studies, supervised by Elbert County, are being conducted to objectively measure -- if or how -- the camp and its activities are impacting the residents and wildlife. These studies will assist us in determining if it would be in the best interests of everyone to relocate the shooting range, modify activities or even eliminate certain activities entirely. Some of the studies will be conducted during two upcoming fund-raising events; others will be conducted at various times throughout the next 30 days.

Once the studies are completed, we will determine our course of action -- taking into consideration the input from neighbors -- and the community will be informed immediately.

Prior to this event, we have enjoyed an open dialogue with our neighbors, and anticipate that our relationship will be strengthened and improved by our rapid response to the needs of the community. We look forward to many years to come as your trusted neighbor, and thank you for your continued support of the Boy Scouts of America.

Respectfully yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Doak Jacoway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

M. Doak Jacoway,
President, Denver Area Council Boy Scouts of America