Executive Summary – RFID System Debrief

Event: Melanated Campout – 3-Day Event

■ What Worked Well

Attendees responded positively — many saw RFID as a modern upgrade over manual check-ins.

RFID successfully tracked arrivals, attendance, and meals where used consistently.

Tap-to-validate was intuitive and faster at staffed stations.

Supabase API sync was reliable for early arrivals and meal tagging.

Established a baseline for scaling tech at future events.

■■ Key Issues

Data & People: No roles/permissions, flat file limited person-level visibility, wrong phone numbers.

Hardware: Tablets underpowered/unprepared, not enough scanners, vendor dependency (identical bands).

Software: Last-minute training, no search at stations, override issues, meal plan slowed lines.

■ Recommendations

Custom System: Person-level tracking, role-based permissions, digital waivers, companion handling.

RFID Vendor: Pre-print names, color-coded bands, 100–150 blank spares.

Hardware: Event-grade tablets, RFID readers with built-in power, Starlink Wi-Fi, barcode backup.

Software: Search by name/email, assisted activation logging, override counter, tap=meal redesign, dashboards, automation.

■ ROI & Bottleneck Reduction

Productivity: Faster check-ins and meals with tap = action.

Cost Savings: Barcode backups pennies vs $1–$3 RFID.

Staff/Admin Relief: Automated reports replace manual reconciliations.

Accuracy: Relational DB + validation ensures proper counts.

Better Experience: Shorter lines, fewer errors, smoother issue resolution.

Smarter Spending: Consolidate platforms, reinvest in durable hardware + automation.

■■ Takeaway

RFID is a promising foundation for Melanated Campout. With refinements — role-based access, automation, pre-printed/color-coded bands, and streamlined station workflows — the system can

become a signature feature that increases ROI, reduces staff/admin pain points, and delivers a smoother attendee experience.

RFID System Debrief & Recommendations

Event: Melanated Campout – 3-Day Event

1. Data & People Issues

Observations / Issues: No role differentiation, flat file database, phone errors, manual workarounds.

Recommendations: Relational DB, role-based permissions, ID names, digital waivers, phone validation, companion handling, color-coded wristbands.

2. Hardware Issues

Observations / Issues: Tablets underpowered, not charged, single-port conflict, insufficient devices, vendor dependency.

Recommendations: Vendor pre-print names, spare bands, event-grade tablets, Starlink, barcode hybrid.

3. Software Issues

Observations / Issues: Training gaps, activation workflow failures, no station search, override conflicts, meal plan bottlenecks, fragmented reporting.

Recommendations: Station search, assisted activation logging, override counter, override redesign, tap=meal workflow, dashboards, automation.

4. Strategic Recommendations

Custom role-based system, automation, vendor deliverables, hybrid backups, budget optimization.

5. What Worked Well

Positive attendee feedback, RFID successful where used, faster lines at staffed stations, Supabase sync worked, strong foundation for growth.

6. Assumptions & Limitations

Vendor dependency, outdoor challenges, group registration complexity, staff turnover, visual ID limits.

7. ROI & Bottleneck Reduction Opportunities

Productivity gains, cost efficiencies, reduced admin load, higher accuracy, improved attendee experience, visibility into overrides, optimized IT spend.

Executive Takeaway

RFID is a promising foundation. With refinements — role-based access, automation, pre-printed/color-coded bands, streamlined workflows — the system can increase ROI, reduce staff/admin burden, and improve attendee flow and data accuracy.