

Scout Troop 166/066

Newcomer Guide: Read Me First

What You Might Not Get Elsewhere

At first it feels like there is a lot to know, but it ends up being pretty simple — if you follow a few basic rules.

Never be afraid to ask if you don't know something. We have all been there, so you are not alone, and most likely the worst thing that happens is you get too much information.

You can find out more about Ranks, Outings, and the Uniform by looking things up, but here are a few things you will wish someone had told you:

The Scout Book — It Will Get Lost

Bet on it. Take pictures of the signatures and logs periodically. Keep them somewhere safe — maybe a dedicated folder just for Scout information.

Do this before every Court of Honor.

DIY Binder

There is no formal log beyond the Scout Book. Many families keep a three-ring binder with plastic card-sleeve inserts (the kind used for sports cards). These are perfect for Merit Badge Blue Cards, patches, Rank Badges, and Rank Cards as they are earned. The binder is the ideal home for all your scouting paperwork.

Court of Honor

This is where Ranks, Badges, and other achievements are presented. Put cards, segments, and patches in your **right shirt pocket** — if they go in your pants pocket, you will never see them again. Transfer them to the binder as soon as possible until you can sew them on.

What You Need to Track

Don't count on anyone else doing it for you. Update these logs at minimum before every Court of Honor.

Hiking Log

Record every hike, including hikes that are part of a larger outing.

Camping Log

Record every overnight outing — where, when, and how many nights. This is critical for rank advancements.

Include day outings as well.

Service Hours

There is a dedicated place in the Scout Book for service hours. Most Scouts struggle to remember to fill this out — don't be one of them.

Ranks & Training

You may not need this until you fill out your Eagle Scout Application, but by then it is very hard to reconstruct from memory. Track it now.