

# Scout Troop 166/066

## Newcomer Guide: Ranks & Advancement

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*Tip: Every month or two, snap a picture of the advancement signature pages, just in case the Scout Manual gets lost.*

## Two Major Rank Groups

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### **Scout Skills (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class)**

Scouts work on developing basic skills important to outdoor activities — from knots to first aid — as well as learning the ways of being a Scout. A Scout who has earned First Class is considered to have all the essential knowledge and skills of Scoutcraft.

### **Leadership (Star, Life, Eagle)**

Ranks earned by service and leadership. The upper ranks of Scouting are opportunities to grow and develop character and leadership skills.

## The Advancement Process

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Every troop has an Advancement Chair who manages and records achievements. The Scout Manual has all requirements with a space to be signed off. BSA is very clear: the wording of each requirement must be met exactly. The adviser is not allowed to add to or qualify those requirements. Special accommodations must be approved by the Scoutmaster.

## Who Is Responsible?

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Ultimately, the Scout. In the Skills ranks, new scouts are usually in the New-Scout Patrol with Troop Guides who encourage them to complete advancements as quickly as possible. The goal is to achieve First Class by the end of the first year.

## Who Signs?

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The Scoutmaster determines sign-off authority. In Troop 166, any scout who has achieved First Class can sign for ranks below that, unless the manual specifies Parent/Guardian or Scoutmaster.

## What Order?

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Unless a requirement specifies it must be earned while holding a certain rank, a Scout can work on any requirement in any order. However, ranks can only be earned in order: Tenderfoot must be completed before earning Second Class.

## How to Earn a Rank

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1. Fulfill all listed requirements.
2. Have a qualified person sign off on those requirements.
3. Arrange a Scoutmaster Meeting (the Scout's responsibility).
4. Arrange a Board of Review with the Advancement Chair (the Scout's responsibility).

If the Board of Review passes the Scout, the rank is earned. It is possible to receive multiple ranks up to First Class at a single Court of Honor.