

# Scout Troop 166/066

## Newcomer Guide: A Typical Outing

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Troop 166 plans at least one overnight outing every month — hikes, car-camping, and special outings like staying overnight in the Submarine at OMSI. As a rule, the troop does not repeat an event for seven years (exceptions: Camporee, Camp Parsons, Pioneer Post, and the Parsons Service Project). The calendar is set at a May meeting for the year starting the following September.

The troop has an adult Outdoor Chairperson managing the outings calendar, paperwork, and coordinators. Every outing has a coordinator assigned to take the point on scheduling, planning, site coordination, and communication. Being an event coordinator is a great way to volunteer!

## Preparation

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Scouts sign up by submitting a permission slip (with healthcare information) and the trip fee. The coordinator announces the outing via email and at Monday meetings. Adults sign up to join and/or drive. At pre-outing meetings, scouts get ready and hear about any special equipment needed.

With the Scout-Led philosophy and Patrol Method, information passes from the Senior Patrol Staff to Patrol Leaders, then to Patrol Members. Patrols are responsible for planning food, cooking, and equipment lists. Ideally a patrol meeting is held the week before to plan meals and assign jobs.

## Patrol Planning & Meals

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Each patrol plans, buys, packs, and prepares their own food and equipment. A Grub Master is selected for each outing to collect the grub fee (usually ~\$8 per scout), buy food, and bring it to departure. It is a troop philosophy that you learn from experience — "you can't starve over a weekend!"

For a typical outing (meet 8am Saturday at Church):

- Scouts should have a sack lunch or money for fast food on the way.

- On-site meals are normally Saturday Dinner and Sunday Breakfast.

- Stop for lunch on the way home (sack lunch or fast food money).

- Snacks: expect to share with your patrol — eating together is important.

Special dietary needs are accommodated by the patrol.

## Paperwork & Drivers

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The SPL receives permission slips and a roster the night before, then decides vehicle assignments. Typically, scouts are not assigned to ride with their own parents. Packets include permission slips, driving directions, phone numbers, and mileage reimbursement forms.

## Outing Day

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Meet at Wedgwood Presbyterian Church (8008 35th Ave NE, Seattle WA) at 8am. Equipment checks, driver assignments, loading, and departure. Patrols distribute shared gear to ensure no scout has a pack too heavy to carry.

## Tenting

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BSA requires that only scouts of the same gender and roughly the same age (no more than two years apart) share a tent. Hammocks require Scoutmaster consultation before packing. No scout is required to share a tent if uncomfortable doing so.

## Return Home

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Usually 2–4pm Sunday. The coordinator informs the Outdoor Chair of the ETA, who emails parents. Scouts are brought back to the church and picked up by parents — scouts are never left unsupervised.