



# BOY SCOUT TROOP 266

West University United Methodist Church  
*"More Fun, More High Adventure, More Scout Led"*



## Welcome Scouts and Parents!

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Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 266! We are excited that you are considering joining us and becoming a part of Scouting.

The information provided here is meant to provide you with specific information on Troop 266 and should answer basic questions about our policies, uniforms, equipment, camping trips, advancement, merit badges and participation.

## Joining Troop 266

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Membership in Troop 266 is open to all boys from age 11 through 17, or those age 10+ who have earned the Arrow of Light. All required forms with the proper signatures must be current and on file with the Troop before a Scout can attend any activity or campout. All of these forms can be found on the Troop 266 web site ([www.troop266.com](http://www.troop266.com)). A complete application for membership to Troop 266 consists of the following forms, which must be completed and returned to the Scoutmaster:

## Scout Forms

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1. BSA Youth Application form: This form titled "BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA YOUTH APPLICATION" is available from either the Scoutmaster or Advancement Committee Chair.
2. BSA Annual Health and Medical Record: This form is required ANNUALLY for insurance and safety purposes for each Scout and adult participant. Parts A & B can be used initially and does not need a doctor's signature, but Part C, requiring a physician's signature is needed for some camps.
3. Participant Statement of Understanding and Code of Conduct for BSA Troop 266: This form must be read, understood, and signed by the Scout and parent.
4. Fees: Please pay the annual registration fee with a check payable to Troop 266.

## Troop Meetings

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Troop meetings are generally held each Tuesday from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30p.m. at West University United Methodist Church in the gym (High Court) on the west end of the building complex. Each Scout must bring his Scout Handbook and wear the appropriate uniform to each meeting.

## Uniforms

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The BSA Field Uniform or Class "A" uniform consists of:

- Boy Scout uniform shirt (short or long-sleeved), with BSA-required patches, insignia, and epaulets
- Boy Scout uniform shorts or pants with belt
- Boy Scout uniform socks
- Troop 266 Neckerchief and slide \*

The Activity uniform or Class "B" uniform consists of:

- Troop 266 T-shirt, Scouting-related T-shirt, or plain T-shirt with no commercial logos
- Boy Scout uniform shorts or pants with belt
- Boy Scout uniform socks

Class "A" uniforms will be worn at each meeting from Labor Day through Memorial Day. Class "B" uniforms will be worn at each meeting from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Class "A" is required at all Courts of Honor and Boards of Review during the year. A complete uniform should be worn to all Troop meetings and must be worn when traveling to and from all Scout functions. Scouts who do not wear a correct or complete uniform will not be counted as "present." The Senior Patrol Leader will conduct periodic uniform inspections.

## Items Provided by Troop 266

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The following items are provided to Scouts by Troop 266 after registration with the Troop.

- Troop 266 neckerchief & slide \*
- Boy Scout epaulets
- Boy Scout rank badge
- Patrol emblem
- Boy Scout Handbook

## Scout Handbooks & Cover

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The Troop provides each new Scout with a Boy Scout Handbook and protective cover. Handbooks are only given once and will not be replaced if the book is lost or damaged. As the Scout Handbook contains the record of a Scout's advancement, a replacement MUST be purchased at the Scout's expense. Scouts should safeguard his Handbook by marking his name on the outside edge.

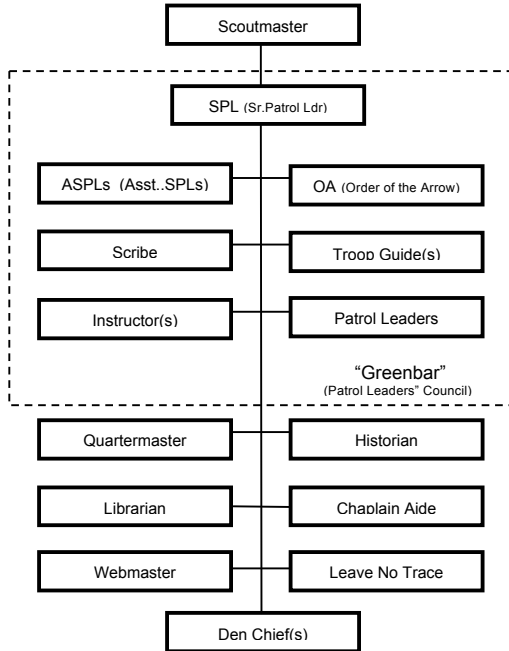
## Troop Communication

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Troop 266 makes information available to Scouts and adults primarily through the Troop website ([www.troop266.com](http://www.troop266.com)) and email via Yahoo!Groups. Patrol leaders may also call members of their patrols to relay information.

## Troop 266 Boy-Led / Patrol Method

Troop 266 is a boy-led Troop, which uses the Patrol Method. This means that the Scouts are responsible for planning and executing most activities, with Adult Advisors guiding but not doing for the scouts. Troop meetings are planned and carried out by the Patrol Leaders' Council (the "Greenbar"). The chart below shows the Troop organization. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting, and every boy will have an opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership.



### Patrols

A Patrol is a group of 6-10 Scouts led by a Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, and Scribe. Patrols partition the Troop into smaller, more personal and manageable parts. A boy usually remains in the same Patrol throughout his scouting years. Patrols have their own name, emblem, yell, and flag. In addition to the Troop meetings, a Patrol typically meets 1-3 times a month on its own to promote bonding and camaraderie. Patrols have Adult Advisors to guide them.

### Youth Leadership

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) conducts the Troop meetings. A new SPL is elected by the Scouts twice a year. Adults monitor the elections, but do not vote. The SPL appoints his assistants (ASPLs) and directs their activities in running the Troop.

The boys within each Patrol elect their Patrol Leader, who appoints his assistants, and together they conduct the Patrol meetings under the supervision of an Assistant Scoutmaster or Patrol Advisor. The Patrol Leader leads his Patrol in planning for campouts, helping with advancement, and ensures good communication with other members of the Patrol and Troop.

### Advancement & Merit Badges

The Scout advancement program includes steps in ranks leading to Eagle Scout. Rank advancement is only earned after required skills are learned and demonstrated to a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or designee. As each requirement is completed, a Scout will have a conference with the Scoutmaster or Asst. Scoutmaster, who will sign off on the advancement. Parents may not sign for their own Scout. Scouts need to take advantage of

the advancement opportunities available and ask for a conference when ready. They are responsible for keeping their own personal advancement record in their Handbook, including service hours, campouts, Troop activities, and leadership positions. It is always a Scout's responsibility to get his advancements recorded in his Handbook.

Scouts must earn Merit Badges (MB) to achieve ranks above First Class; certain ones are required to become an Eagle Scout. BSA offers over 110 different merit badges to challenge a Scout and introduce new areas of interest. To earn a MB, certain steps must be followed in a specific order. The Troop provides MB opportunities during monthly campouts, and Scouts are encouraged to earn them at Summer/Winter Camps, or MB Fairs.

### Camping Opportunities

**Monthly Campouts:** A Troop's outdoor program is a main attraction for most boys. Troop 266 strives to provide a variety of outdoor camping experiences, about once a month, which are often coordinated with the advancement and merit badge programs. At campouts, a Scout learns responsibility for himself, his gear and the Troop equipment.

**New Scout Campout:** A New Scout Campout is scheduled every year to introduce new Scouts and their parents to the program and to help them master skills needed for Patrol-method camping. Topics include: camp selection and setup, sanitation and personal hygiene, fire building and safety, knife and axe yard safety, first aid, poisonous plants, cooking and cleanup, Patrol Boxes, duty rosters, flag ceremonies, safe hiking, the buddy system, knots and rope use.

**Summer & Winter Camp:** Summer and Winter camps are held at Boy Scout Camps in Texas and other states. These camps provide great opportunities for Scouts to advance, learn new skills, practice leadership, grow as Scouts, and just have fun. Dates for camps are reserved well in advance. Scouts who attend Summer and Winter camps usually earn more Merit Badges and progress in rank more quickly than boys who do not attend, and these camps provide all the fun and excitement that boys look for in their camping experiences.

**High Adventure:** Troop 266 provides at least one High Adventure activity per year consisting of challenges like mountain backpacking, canoeing or sailing. Requirements will vary depending on the activity, but participation is usually limited to Scouts who have reached the rank of First Class, are 14+ years, completed 8th grade, and are capable to participate. Adult leaders will set a training schedule, and Scouts must do these preparation assignments to be permitted to go on the trip.

### Other Activities

#### Service Projects

Participating in service projects helps a Scout understand his responsibility as a citizen of his community. Attendance at and participation in Troop service projects are expected as part of showing Scout spirit and required for advancement. Examples are Elves & More, community service, Scout Sunday, & Eagle projects.

#### Fundraisers:

During the year the Troop will conduct fundraising projects. Annual dues cover only a small part of our total expenses. Parents are expected to help with these fundraisers. Attendance at and participation in Fundraising events are expected.