

*Greater Pittsburgh Council, B.S.A.  
What is a BUGSUCKER?  
Why would you want one?*

**The BUGSUCKER will be the tool we use this Spring to recruit 500 New Tiger Cubs!**

You may ask; “What is a **BUGSUCKER**?”

Let’s all take a minute and think about the promises we make during the Spring Recruitment process. Whether it is through Boy Talks, flyers or advertisements. How often have you said: “Come out to School Night on September\_\_\_\_, and join Cub Scouts. You’ll get to work on lots cool projects, go camping, Make pinewood derby cars and learn about nature.”

**The Plan**

The Greater Pittsburgh Council for several years has tried various plans for Spring Recruitment involving Tiger Fun Days, Pirate Tickets, etc., which hopefully added a little excitement and helped encourage attendance, but still did not address the **lack of program** in many packs over the Summer. We have been successful in recruiting new Tiger Cubs in the Spring and then losing them when Fall comes around.

The Plan involving the “BUGSUCKER” will include a variety of planned **Summer Activities** to keep those new Tigers engaged over the summer.

**The Activities are as Follows:**

**May 17<sup>th</sup>** Kennywood Pinewood Derby Race! BUGSUCKER EVENT

**June 14<sup>th</sup>**

Flag Day Celebration followed by a Pirate Game

**June-July**

Day Camp at any Council Day Camp

**August**

Safari at the Pittsburgh Zoo

**September**

The Tiger will be back in their Packs ready for Fall program

**Tiger Incentive Plan**

While attending each event the New Tiger Cub will receive a Patch. If they collect all 4 patches over the summer and return to the Pack in the fall they receive a Neckerchief Slide for their uniform.

**Background BUGSUCKER**

Many other Councils across the country have been VERY successful using the BUGSUCKER in their Recruitment Plans.

**The results show that they work!**

**The Idea of Bugsuckers**

(Testimonial from the Columbus Council)

In the past Packs were encouraged through recruitment plans to conduct **sign-up** nights. Unfortunately, the sign-up night may go like this, herd everyone into the school cafeteria and the new boy sits through an hour of talking heads, watches his parent fill out a couple of forms, pay some money, and then they go home.

**What a disappointment!**

**Where's all the fun and adventure!**

The Packs were encouraged through kickoff materials to have some extra adults on hand to run programs for the boys, but many still did not have much going on that night. We found this craft and tested it out at a Few summer programs and it was a huge hit. What boy doesn't want to trap bugs?

**Implementation:**

After securing materials, we distributed them to all packs throughout the Council. Packs were excited, and all found it easy to get a few adults to commit to working with the boys that night. During classroom presentations, we demonstrated the Bugsuckers with oatmeal placed on a tabletop and had the boys imagine the oatmeal were some really ugly bugs. Teachers were fascinated and most wanted to get their own. Materials were either donated or obtained at a very low cost.

**At School Night:**

The Bugsuckers were a big hit! Every pack provided an immediate program activity and gave them something to take home. The construction process gave time for the pack leaders to talk to the parents and get the paperwork done, and the boys went home excited. At each school night location, boys could be seen out in the parking lots happily sucking up bugs. They quickly invented games of who could get the most, biggest, etc. Mothers were generally horrified at the variety of bugs collected. Dads were greatly amused. Boys were ecstatic. Leaders loved it so much that when the idea for a promo came up this year, it was universally agreed to run with the Bugsuckers once again.