Girl Scout troop from of Greater Atlanta rapid prototyping at the Wish for WASH Design Thinking workshop

Wish for WASH x Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta

Winter 2020 Girl Scouts Design Jam

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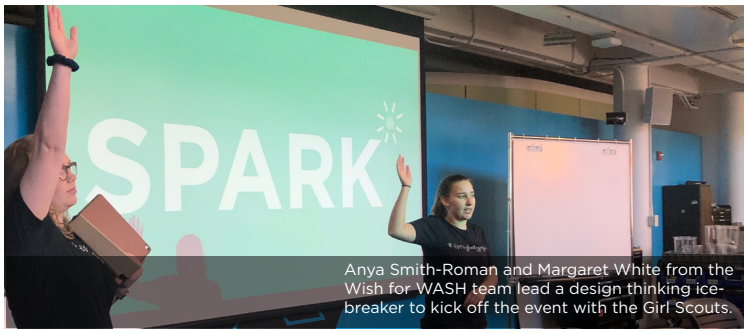
The **Wish for WASH (W4W)** education team conducted a Design Thinking workshop with a troop from the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta. It was an overall success with the 5 W4W team members that led the event and coordinated the logistics for 12 Girl Scouts (approximately ~8-9 years old) that attended with their mothers. This inaugural collaboration was held on February 9th, 2020 at the DesignBloc at Georgia Tech.

The **Girls Scouts of Greater Atlanta** (affiliated with the Girl Scouts of USA) is an organization that focuses on helping young girls build leadership skills, and a local troop reached out with the desire to learn more about sustainability in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. For the event, the W4W team focused on ideation and prototyping concepts for compost toilets. W4W (led by Jasmine Burton) worked in collaboration with the Girl Scout troop to integrate the aspects of the human centered design and rapid prototyping methodology. The event began with presentations from Jasmine, Anya, and Margaret to set the tone and theme. The 'how might we' (HMW) design thinking question was **'HMW store waste in a way that allows time for composting while still utilizing the toilet'?** This question is in reference to the need for innovation in the sanitation sector for sustainability and human rights purposes, in-line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6. Icebreakers and brainstorming techniques followed; showing the Girl Scouts different sanitation realities from around the world and asking if they thought it was a toilet. The girls were introduced to the idea that a toilet isn't necessarily what they might be used to seeing, but rather is just something to go to in order to relieve themselves. The Girl Scouts were then given different articles to read and pull out key information that would help them answer the HMW question. Ideas such as ' composting needs moisture and warmth', ' oxygen needs to be available to compost' and ' 80% of waste goes straight to the ocean' were brought out and shared amongst the girls. Groups were then given materials: *legos, play dough, and various office supplies to build their own composting toilet prototype.*

Jasmine Burton from Wish for WASH explaining the WASH-related HMW question to the Girl Scouts



Anya Smith-Roman and Margaret White from the Wish for WASH team lead a design thinking ice-breaker to kick off the event with the Girl Scouts.

girl scouts of greater atlanta

wish for wash #everybodypoops www.wishforwash.com

DESIGN BLOC

Through a series of interactive brainstorming in bursts of about 5-10 minutes - and after iterating the HMW question to be **“HMW design a low water toilet that’s user-friendly?” -** the groups were able to come up with solutions to their problems and eventually present them each other. **The below concepts are 3 of the final prototypes:**

Some of the Girl Scout participants and their prototypes

Their idea focused around using **no water or electricity in their toilet.** Once the waste goes through the toilet, it falls into basin which divides the water into 2 pipes: one for the sewer and one for the clean water.

Some of the Girl Scout participants and their prototypes

“WORKING TOILET” : Their idea was to use a wooden plank to divide the clean water and the fecal water after it flushes down the toilet so that is always working to keep things clean and sustainable .

Some of the Girl Scout participants and their prototypes

Her idea focused on using **a mobile application** to control the toilet in order to effectively separate the waste in the toilet.

SUMMARY

This event raised awareness of the needs and possibilities for creating a compost toilet that can be utilized effectively. The youth participants learned the basics of fast-paced design thinking and how to brainstorm and then select ideas effectively. The W4W team also learned the value of iterating the specificity of the HMW design challenge to meet the needs of various participants which will be useful as we continue to pursue workshops with Girl Scout troops.

W4W used this workshop to further establish its presence in the Atlanta community as young thought leaders and innovators in the WASH sector. We are excited to see how we can further test these ideas and continue these Atlanta-based educational collaborations with our future WASH work because **#everybodypoops.**

Some of the W4W Education team with some of the members of the troop from Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta

Some of the W4W Education team

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