Inspire a Desire
Exploring Science with Kids
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Social Issue
- We selected achievement in the sciences, especially among under-privileged youth.
- While a number of factors may influence the achievement gap, poor education in a child’s K-12 academic experience, especially preparation in math and science, is a definite contributor.
- Few widely known role models in the STEM fields make it hard for children to see themselves in those types of positions.
- The Twin Cities metro area is home to a diverse array of people. We think it is important for diversity to permeate through college and beyond into fields in the sciences.

Goal
Our goal was to inspire a desire for learning in the sciences among children by presenting science in a fun and appealing manner.

Statistics
- Garlough Students: 42% minorities, 43% on free and reduced lunch
- Whites make up 73% of the science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) workforce
- The average high school graduation rate of Minneapolis was 46.9% in 2011

Organization
- Garlough Elementary is an environmental magnet school, located in Independent School District 197. This school district serves West St. Paul, Eagan and Mendota Heights.
- A magnet school is a specialized school intended to attract students across normal school boundaries.
- Garlough Elementary has a core focus on the environment in a mission to foster wonder, respect, and care for the natural world.
- Partnered with the Dodge Nature Center, among many others, they offer rigorous courses that emphasize science, technology, and math.

Looking Back
- We…
  - Were able to serve the school because they needed volunteers for the science fair
  - Learned how to serve the community by seeking out what they wanted or needed
  - Saw that kids took interest in the demos, made science fun for them
  - Remembered how it was to be a kid
  - Became role models for the kids
  - Learned how to be flexible and resilient when encountering speed bumps

High School Graduation Rates in Minneapolis
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results/ed/graduation