

BACKGROUND

The client requested an online eLearning course to help train their Project Get Outdoors (Project GO) volunteers (see their mission statement below).

Mission Statement:

Project GO facilitates outdoor experiences that develop healthy kids and increase environmental stewardship behaviors. We focus on working with community organizations to connect children with nature. We do this by providing training and support to community organization leaders and volunteers.

To augment the existing instructor-led workshop/course, Project GO needs an online, pre-course to prepare learners for conversations about cultural awareness and provide some of the background information and resources in advance so that classroom time can focus on difficult topics, deeper discussions, and learner questions.

Project GO Leader Certification workshops are scheduled annually in each region of Minnesota. Space is limited to 25 participants per workshop. Not all who wish to attend are able to, so the online course could also be used as a Train-the-Trainer tool for those who participate in the full training to use with their staff personnel that are unable to attend.

The client asked for help from the Minnesota chapter of the International Society for Performance Improvement (MNISPI) eLearning Special Interest Group (SIG). As an active member of the eLearning SIG (a team of professionals that volunteer their time and resources to create eLearning courses for non-profit organizations) I was part of the team that helped create the eLearning course to help supplement their existing training needs.

AUDIENCE

Learners are Project GO volunteer leaders comprised of adults ranging in age from 19 to 65 or older who work with children in out-of-school settings and after school programs. They may be paid or volunteer staff at community centers, YMCA's, Boys and Girls Clubs, recreation centers, libraries, and various programs for underprivileged youth.

Common characteristics of current learners include:

- Primarily from Caucasian, mid-western cultural backgrounds
- Enjoy the outdoors, have a passion for nature and/or outdoor activities
- Enjoy working with children

SOLUTION

One of the goals of Project GO is to attract a more diverse group of leaders, so training should be aimed at overall awareness and appreciation of connecting with and working with individuals that represent different backgrounds, needs, and cultural identities from their own.

The final online course included the following media and interaction to help educate the volunteers about promoting, planning and managing Project Go events and activities.

- Video
- Audio narration
- On-location images (and sounds) of nature and parks
- Interactive scenarios
- Closed captioning
- Printable certification

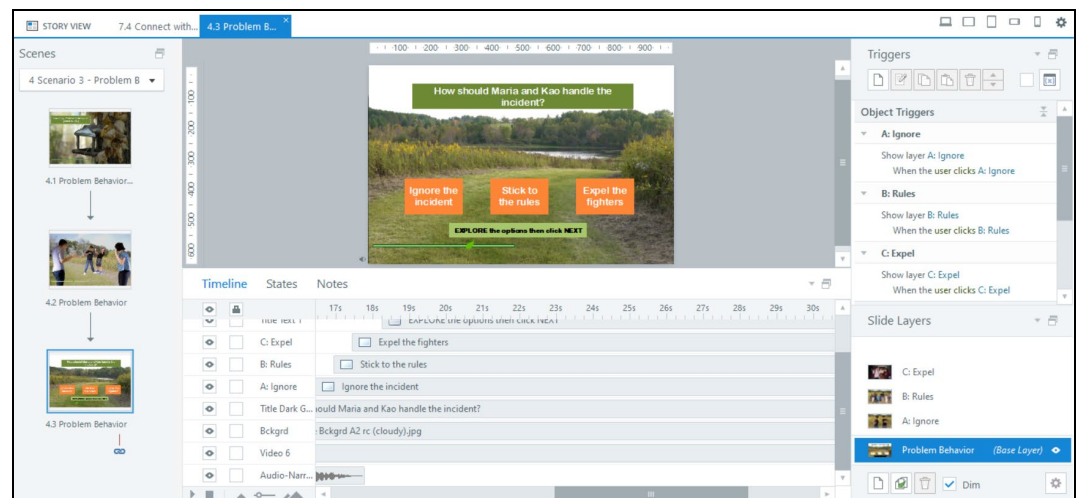
The 20-minute eLearning course is published in Articulate Storyline 360 and is available upon request.

SAMPLE SCREENSHOTS FROM STORYLINE

Sample Screenshots from Storyline

Included below are some screen captures from Storyline 360 and the various scenarios included in the course.


This Storyline scene/slide sample below includes use of multiple layers, triggers that jump to layers and slides with audio and video.



PROJECT GO ELEARNING CERTIFICATION

Project Go eLearning Certification

Included in the introduction at the beginning of the eLearning course is a text entry field for the learner to enter their name. The learner's name is then added to a certificate they earn by viewing the Project Go eLearning course.

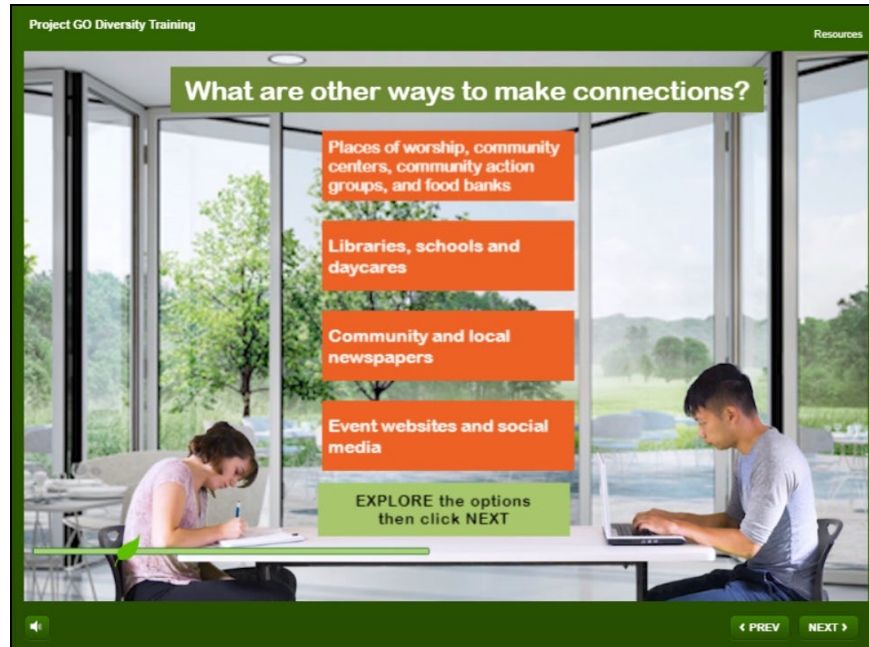


INTERACTIVE SCENARIO SAMPLES

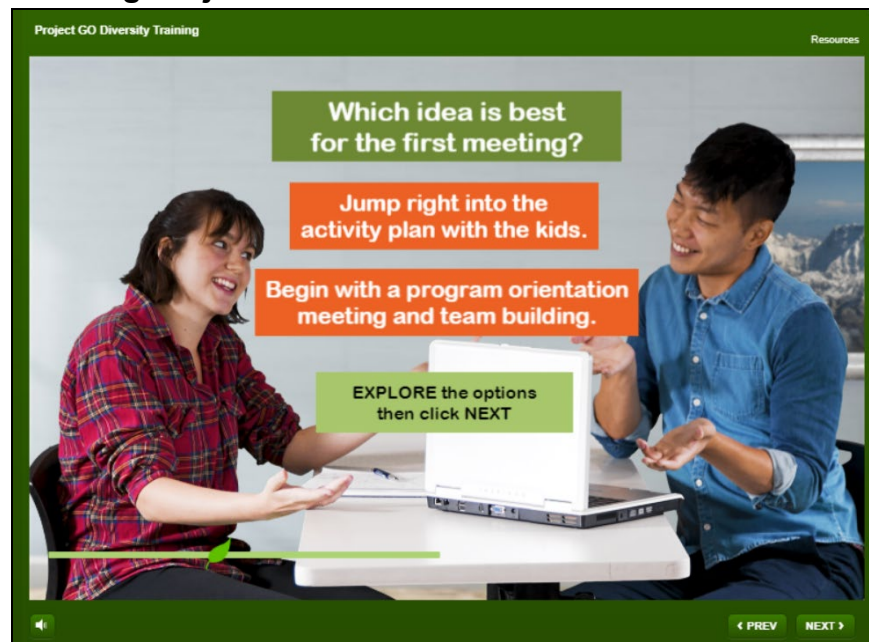
Interactive Scenario Samples

In each scenario a learner can explore the various options by clicking on the orange buttons that display additional slides that include audio and video. The bar with the green leaf (lower left) is a progress bar that indicates where the learner is in the course. Below are some of the scenarios included in the course.

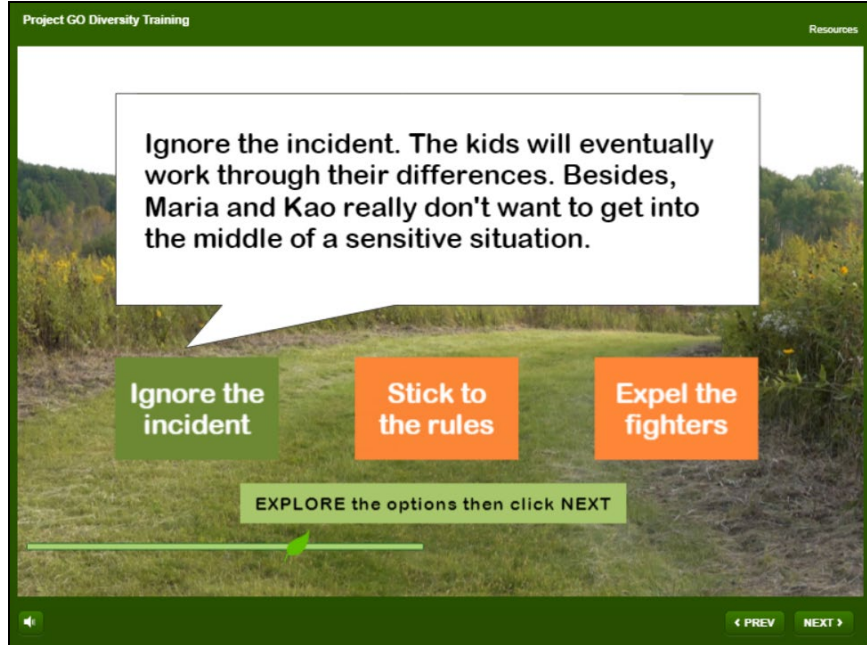
1. Promoting Project Go Events and Activities



2. Planning Project Go Events and Activities



3. Problem Solving When a Conflict Occurs at a Project Go Event or Activity



The screenshot displays an e-learning interface for 'Project GO Diversity Training'. At the top left, it says 'Project GO Diversity Training' and at the top right, 'Resources'. The main content area features a speech bubble with the text: 'Ignore the incident. The kids will eventually work through their differences. Besides, Maria and Kao really don't want to get into the middle of a sensitive situation.' Below the speech bubble are three colored buttons: a green button labeled 'Ignore the incident', an orange button labeled 'Stick to the rules', and another orange button labeled 'Expel the fighters'. A green bar with a right-pointing arrow contains the text 'EXPLORE the options then click NEXT'. At the bottom of the interface, there are navigation controls: a left arrow, a 'PREV' button, and a 'NEXT' button with a right arrow.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

A letter of recommendation from the Project Go client sponsor addressed to the MNISPI eLearning SIG after delivery of the online training module.

A link to the final 20-minute eLearning module available upon request.

Project GO

PROJECT GET OUTDOORS



May 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing on behalf of Project Get Outdoors, Inc. (GO) to express our sincere gratitude for the opportunity to work with Mn ISPI on a recent on-line training project. I absolutely recommend working with this exceptional organization!

Project GO is a small non-profit organization with no paid staff and an annual operating budget of under \$20,000. Our organization works with community action groups across Minnesota to engage low-income youth and children of color with the outdoors. We operate strictly on grants and donations. Besides our annual website subscription, we have little capacity to invest in on-line technologies.

In 2017, Project GO developed a Leader Training Workshop with support from the National Park Service. Feedback from the workshops held in 2017 indicated that, in order to maximize impact of the training and to provide more time for learning outdoors, some of the content would be better addressed via an on-line platform.

Project GO was very lucky to capture the interest of Mn ISPI members for this project in 2018. The group was extremely professional and seemed genuinely eager to assist us in developing a digital training program to meet our goals. We held several planning meetings to discuss and prioritize the focus of the training. The team had wonderful suggestions and shared many different example training models that offered ideas for what our program might look like. The team met diligently over two years to volunteer their time, talents and energy to this effort and the final product has more than met my expectations.

I find it pleasantly ironic that this team of technology-minded individuals has developed a tool that will help inspire and equip countless mentors to engage children across Minnesota with the outdoors. We are using technology against itself as we get kids unplugged from their iPads, cell phones and computers and out into the natural world!

Feel free to contact me if you'd like to discuss our experience with Mn ISPI further!



Sara Holger
Founder – Board President
Sara.grover@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Secretary

Gina Cherny, MN

Secretary

Winona, MN
Bette Jean Bernier,

Treasurer

Bette Jean Bernier,

Treasurer

Winona, MN
Bucky Flores,

Program Coordinator

Bucky Flores, MN

Program Coordinator

Zumbrota, MN

President

Sara Holger, MN

President

Wabasha, MN
Barb Nagel,

Winona, MN

Barb Nagel,
Winona, MN
Kate Connor Utterback
Rochester, MN

Kate Connor Utterback

Rochester, MN
Denine Voegeli

Winona, MN

Denine Voegeli
Winona, MN
Liaison – Jeffers

Liaison – Jeffers

Fergus Woolley,
Liaison – Jeffers
Foundation
Plymouth, MN

Project Get Outdoors, Inc., PO Box 244, Wabasha MN 55981 (507)-951-5885

www.mnprojectgo.org