

YOLP

YOUNG OWLS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

JUNE 5, 2018

The SSPEED Center teamed up with the Young Owls Leadership Program (YOLP) at Rice to engage with nearly 60 local high school students through a lecture on the impact of Hurricane Harvey on Houston and why we need a disaster-trained workforce.

After the lecture, the SSPEED Center taught the students about engineering principles through hands-on projects with water rockets and a bridge building activity.

BRIDGE BUILDING & ROCKET LAUNCHING

The students broke into teams to launch water rockets and see which rocket could go the highest. Students took an empty soda bottle, filled it with water and used a bike pump to pressurize gas and force the homemade rockets into the air. The students with the best rocket launch of the day had a three-winged that soared for 8.6 seconds.

For the bridge building activity, the students used a K'nex construction set to design a bridge structure. The competition was determined by which bridge held the most weight without collapsing. The winning team's bridge held more than seven pounds.

YOLP STUDENT TESTIMONY

"Our bridge building group used the leadership characteristics that we learned this week and applied it to this project. I think it was what made us succeed in winning," said Ay'nia, a rising junior at Sterling High School.

"The most interesting part of the day was learning about Flood Warning Systems (FAS3) and the measures that the city can take to help people during a rainstorm," said rising sophomore Gregory of Energy Institute High School.

