

Development, Field Testing and Commercialization of Accessible Tents

1-877-603-0828 • info@blueskydesigns.us • www.blueskydesigns.us

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PROBLEM

Developing and commercializing tent technology which meets the needs of people with disabilities and appeals to a broader audience; and designing such that it can be manufactured at a competitive price.

DESIGN OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Accessible to people with disabilities
- ▶ Attractive to all campers
- ▶ Designed for ease of use
- ▶ Easy to manufacture (materials, components, methods)
- ▶ Affordable price (\$250-450)

Phase I Proposal: Benefits Emphasized

Benefiting Rural Economy

- ▶ Outdoor Recreation brings money to rural areas
- ▶ If you can make it easier for people with disabilities to camp, you expand the number of people who camp.

Societal Benefit:

- ▶ Making the outdoors more accessible to people with disabilities and their families

PHASE I: TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF DESIGN CONCEPTS

Focus Groups & Outdoor Programs - Input & Feedback

Two different tent concepts resulted. The first is "Universal Shelter/Vestibule", which can stand alone or connect to different tents. The second design combined a usable vestibule with a sleeping area. Six different accessible door concepts were developed and tested in Phase I.

Results showed a redesign of tent technology significantly improved the usability and accessibility of tents.

Reputable Partners

Established programs which offer inclusive camping to people with disabilities

- ▶ Wilderness Inquiry
- ▶ National Sports Center for the Disabled
- ▶ Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center
- ▶ 'SPLORE

Focus groups and indoor testing of prototypes



Focus was on doors and space requirements