

## Rockdale SCI Youth Day by Ron Meek

The 2019 Youth Day at Rockdale was held on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 60 youths and their families attended and partook in this annual event hosted by the Rockdale Rod and Gun Club with the participation of Adirondack-Catskill Chapter of SCI. Rockdale has hosted youth days for 19 years with the goal of introducing youth to the shooting sports and various forms of outdoor fun. We need to get our youth started on a path to utilizing and appreciating their freedoms of hunting, fishing and enjoying the outdoor environment. This cannot be achieved without the cooperation of organizations like Rockdale Gun Club and Adirondack-Catskill SCI, along with the vendors who donate to the event. We also depend on the family and friends who encourage and support the youth's participation in the event. The February Youth Day offers ice fishing, archery with compound and cross-bow, air gun shooting, the Laser Shot system, and fly-tying techniques. For attendees 12 years-old and over, they can experience Flintlock/Black Powder Shooting. The visit by a K-9 Team from the DEC is always a popular, as are the activities explored through youth using the Hands-On-Wildlife Box provided by the Sables. We look forward to providing many more years of these events so we can share our appreciation of the hunting, fishing, and outdoor sports with the youth attending. I and the rest of the volunteers appreciate how well behaved and attentive the youth are during the event. They are 'sponges' soaking up whatever activities are offered throughout the day. Please join us for next year's SCI Youth Day at Rockdale Rod & Gun Club.

