

# Safari Donation Purchases Equipment for Rolland-Warner Archery Program

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LAPEER — Students at Rolland-Warner Middle School looking to hone their archery skills will do so with brand new equipment, thanks to the Flint Chapter of Safari International.

Carl Griffin, Education Director with the Flint Chapter of Safari Club International, paid a visit to Rolland-Warner on Tuesday, Dec. 18 to deliver a \$3,519 donation to Archery Club faculty advisor Chris Prill.

Prill said the donation will be used to purchase 24 new bows, a sorely needed influx of new gear that will replace the club's heavily-used collection. "On the first day of archery, we'll get to start with all new equipment," said Prill. "They get a lot of use." And with approximately 70 students signed up to join the club when it gets underway in a few weeks, as well as Prill's outdoor education classes making use of the bows, the donation will go a long way to ensuring the club will have the equipment to continue.

The Flint Chapter of Safari Club International enjoys the support of more than 300 members, said Griffin, and one of the most important tenets of the club is educational outreach, which the donation satisfies. Griffin said the club holds a heavily-attended fundraiser auction each year at Dort Federal Arena in Flint, which allows them to raise the money that in turn is donated to causes that promote outdoor education and conservancy.

For more information on the Flint Chapter of Safari Club International and how the organization supports educational programs like the Rolland-Warner Archery Club, as well as other educational and humanitarian efforts, contact Griffin at 248-770-9983.



## Rolland-Warner Middle School Archery Tournament

Our chapter recently provided \$3,500 in funding for new archery equipment at Rolland-Warner Middle School in Lapeer. The new bows and arrows were immediately put to use as part of Mr. Chris Prill's Outdoor Education Class and by the Rolland-Warner Archery Club which meets after school. All this archery practice leads up to their annual Archery Tournament which was held on Wednesday, March 13th in the school gymnasium.

This year there were 110 archers from the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grades competing. The event drew close to 400 spectators with many parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters in attendance. Nick Pugliese, the photojournalist from the Lapeer County Press was there as well. Trophies and medals were awarded to the top shooters in the various divisions and the first, second and third place winners also received a one year youth membership to

Safari Club International.

Our SCI chapter was recognized throughout this tournament. Chris Prill, the teacher who heads up the archery programs at Rolland-Warner, acknowledged our contributions in his opening remarks and a large Sponsored By SCI Flint banner hung to the right of the targets. Many people came up to me and personally thanked me for our sponsorship and help in providing this unique activity for the students at Rolland-Warner. Some of the people who attended had probably never heard of Safari Club International and this was a great way to introduce them to our organization and our chapter.

The lion's share of the credit for the success of the Rolland-Warner archery program has to go to Chris Prill. It is relatively easy to write a check but to set up a program, attract and train 110 participants and organize an event like

this takes a tremendous amount of time and effort. We should all be grateful that there are teachers like Chris Prill who give so much of themselves to provide an experience for their students that is outside what is normally offered in school. For many of Mr. Prill's students this may be their first introduction to the shooting sports. He teaches his students safety, discipline and respect for a weapon. We hope that this will carry on as a life-long interest that will result in them becoming responsible hunter/conservationists as they grow into adults. From that standpoint there is no question that our donations to education programs like this is money well spent!

For more information on SCI Flint's Education Programs please contact Carl Griffin, Education Director 248-770-9983 [cgriffin35752@gmail.com](mailto:cgriffin35752@gmail.com)