

Nearly 250 kids bait hooks for Elks' ice fishing contest

Bob Cochran called the weather "atrocious," but the turnout was still overwhelming.

Cochran, one of the co-founders of the Faribault Elks Lodge's Youth Ice Fishing Contest, said a total of 247 kids participated in the fifth-annual event held at Hoy's Resort on French Lake on Saturday despite the cold, snowy and windy conditions. The 247 participants was almost 100 more than last year's turnout.

Almost all of the kids came with parents or grandparents, and after including the event's 30-plus volunteers, it made for a busy day on the lake. There were warming houses for the kids and also contests throughout the day. The event was free.

"It's a fantastic experience," Cochran said. "... The community came together out there on the ice and really supported us."



(Photos courtesy of Peter van Sluis)