



## FALCONRY PERMIT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Falconry is not a sport for your part-time entertainment. It requires a great deal of knowledge about raptor biology, care and hunting skills. Dedication is also necessary. Be prepared to commit a minimum of 2 hours per day year-round to your bird(s) before attempting to become licensed.

To prepare yourself for becoming a falconer, you are encouraged to talk and spend some time with an experienced falconer. Further information can be obtained by the Wisconsin Falconry Association (WFA) at <http://www.wisconsinfalconers.org>. It is also recommended to read up on the sport. The following is a list of recommended resources that will not only help you learn about falconry but will prepare you for taking the exam.

- North American Falconry & Hunting Hawks – Frank Lyman Beebe and Harold Melvin Webster
- The Red-Tailed Hawk: A complete guide to training and hunting North America's most versatile game hawk  
– Liam J. McGranaghan
- California Hawking Club: Apprentice Study Guide – Published by the California Hawking Club

After you are thoroughly acquainted with the sport and have read through the apprentice expectations (see page 2), you are ready to take the necessary steps for becoming a Wisconsin Falconer:

1. **Take the Online Exam** – Register to take the online exam [here](#). The exam consists of 105 multiple choice questions and is timed to one hour. You must score 80% or better on the exam before proceeding.
2. **Locate a sponsor** – First time applicants are called “apprentice class falconers”. More experienced falconers are either general (2 to 7 years of experience) or master class falconers (over 7 years of experience). Apprentice class falconers must have a general or master class falconer as a sponsor at the time of application. A letter from your sponsor indicating that they will sponsor you must be included with your application. You can find a sponsor by visiting the WFA website above or contacting the Falconry Coordinator.
3. **Facilities and Equipment Inspection** – Standards for equipment are established by s.NR 18.07. You should prepare to meet those standards before submitting your application. Contact your [local conservation warden](#) to schedule an [inspection of your facilities and equipment](#). A copy of your approved inspection should be included when you send in your application.
4. **Application** – Complete the [state falconry permit application](#) along with a check or money order for \$75 check made payable to the Wisconsin DNR. Submit the application, fee, and other documents to the address on the application.
5. **Permit issuance** – After your application has been received and approved, you will receive your falconry permit and band within 30 days.
6. **Raptor Possession** – Once you receive your permit, you may obtain a raptor by trapping or gift as described in s. NR 18.10 and 18.12

**NEED FURTHER HELP?** Please contact your Falconry Coordinator – Stacy Rowe at (608) 228-9796 or [stacy.rowe@wisconsin.gov](mailto:stacy.rowe@wisconsin.gov).

## Falconry Apprentice Expectations

When considering becoming a falconer, we hope you take a few minutes to think about what that commitment means. Falconry is not a sport for your part-time entertainment or an opportunity to have a pet raptor; rather, Falconry is a serious commitment that requires a great deal of skill as well as knowledge about biology and daily care for your bird and hunting partner. The Falconry Apprenticeship process is intended to guide and support learning the knowledge and developing the necessary skills to become a successful falconer. It is expected that the Sponsor will support your learning process regarding the treatment and care of a falconry raptor, how to facilitate the raptor's pursuit of wild quarry in the field, how to deal with common falconry issues that may arise, how to engage with the public regarding the practice of falconry, and the laws and paperwork associated with falconry. The Sponsor/Apprentice relationship will ultimately influence your future as a licensed falconer.

Together with members of the Falconry Community, we have identified a recommended (in-exhaustive) list of expectations that should be considered when making the determination if you wish to become a falconry Apprentice during the minimum two-year commitment.

### The Apprentice's Expectations:

1. I am willing and able to make a reasonable commitment to learning the practice of falconry, and will accept the guidance-oriented support provided by my chosen Sponsor during my two year apprenticeship.
2. As a falconry Apprentice, I will make every effort to communicate and work with my Sponsor to learn the art of falconry.
3. I understand that if there are issues with my Sponsor, I need to contact the DNR Falconry Coordinator or DNR Falconry Liaison Conservation Warden as soon as possible.
4. I understand that my first and foremost priority is the safety of myself and my falconry raptor.
5. I am committed to learning all of the knowledge required to practice falconry, including the relevant laws, husbandry, methods of pursuit of quarry, and ethics.
6. If I have any issues I will contact my sponsor, the DNR Falconry Coordinator, and/or the DNR Falconry Liaison Conservation Warden as soon as practically possible.
7. I understand that my apprenticeship may be extended beyond two years if my sponsor and DNR Falconry Coordinator feel more time is needed to become a successful falconer.

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