



## 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, 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 P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or (608) 228-9796 or [stacy.rowe@wisconsin.gov](mailto:stacy.rowe@wisconsin.gov).