

GUIDELINES FOR THE PROSPECTIVE FALCONER IN ARIZONA

_____ You must be at least 12 years of age to apply for an apprentice sport falconry license in Arizona.

_____ Read over the information in this packet thoroughly. Falconry is a time consuming and expensive sport. If you decide that falconry is not for you, there are many other ways you can enjoy raptors (go birding, volunteer at a hawk migration site or at a raptor rehabilitation center). If you still wish to become a falconer; proceed.

_____ **Contact local falconers.** Visit the Arizona Falconers Association (AFA) website (www.arizonafalconers.com/). Spending time at falconry meets and individually with falconers can be very helpful in deciding if the sport is for you. Working through AFA is also the best way to find a sponsor (required for apprentice falconers).

_____ Find a suitable General or Master Falconer under whom to apprentice. Plan to schedule considerable time for your training. You should be willing to adhere to your sponsor's schedule and location for your training. Remember that **you must have a sponsor** for the first two years as an apprentice falconer.

_____ Start preparing for the **falconry exam**. Review information in this packet and resources and reading recommended by the North American Falconers Association (<http://www.n-a-f-a.com/>) and the Arizona Falconers Association. The state exam is given by appointment only and consists of 100 multiple-choice questions involving all aspects of falconry.

_____ Call the appropriate AGFD Regional office to schedule an appointment with the Falconry Coordinator when you are ready to take the test. Allow about an hour to take the test. If you fail the test, you may retake it in two weeks.

_____ Prepare for your **facilities and equipment inspection**. You should be working with your sponsor at this stage, and they should help you with design of your facilities and provide advice in equipment selection. You may also want to consult online falconry resources, books and information in this packet for facility specifications and designs. When your facilities/equipment are ready for inspection, call the appropriate AGFD Regional office to arrange a facilities/equipment inspection through the Regional Falconry Coordinator.

- _____ Pass/fail falconry facilities and equipment inspection. If there are any deficiencies found in your facilities or equipment you must correct them prior to your falconry license being approved. Your facilities may be reinspected (at the investigating officer's discretion).

- _____ After you have passed both the falconry test and your facilities/equipment inspection, purchase an **Arizona Hunting License**. You are also required to possess a Migratory Bird Stamp and/or Waterfowl Stamp, depending on the prey you intend to hunt.

- _____ Submit your completed **Arizona falconry license application** with the appropriate fee (currently \$87.50 for a 3-year license) to the appropriate AGFD Regional office.

- _____ After you have in your possession an Arizona Sport Falconry License, an Arizona Hunting License, and depending on the game you plan to hunt, a Migratory Bird Stamp and/or Waterfowl Stamp, you may begin to plan trapping your first bird for falconry purposes.

- _____ Login to the Federal Falconry Database (<https://migbirdapps.fws.gov/falconry>) to acquire your Federal Falconry ID and submit your 3-186A forms. Instructions for the Federal electronic reporting system are included in this packet.

- _____ Arrange with your sponsor to **capture your first bird** during a "Raptor Capture Season" as defined in AGFD Commission Order 25, and in accordance with the Arizona sport falconry rule (R12-4-422). Or, you may instead purchase a bird or have another falconer transfer a bird to you, also in accordance with R12-4-422. As an apprentice you may only possess one falconry bird at a time and may take no more than two raptors from the wild for use in falconry each calendar year.