Dear prospective falconer:

Thank you for your interest in the sport of falconry. The Oregon Falconers Association (OFA) proudly represents the majority of the state’s falconers and is actively engaged in preserving and improving the quality of falconry in our state.

Falconry is, at its core, hunting wild quarry with trained raptors. Modern falconry is rooted in over 4,000 years of tradition and wisdom from cultures across the globe. The challenge of trapping, training, and hunting cooperatively with a hawk or falcon combined with the legal and logistical realities of keeping a live raptor housed and healthy, makes falconry more of an art form and a lifestyle than merely a hobby.

The successful falconer is a perpetual student of the natural history of both the raptors they employ and the quarry they pursue. You must follow the best practices of avian husbandry, and have some knowledge of veterinary medicine, avian biology, and terrestrial ecology. You must also be an ethical hunter, a craftsman, and a patient and competent animal trainer. Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife management, described falconry as the “perfect hobby”

If you think you are prepared for the extreme commitment required to successfully practice falconry, please visit the OFA website under Falconry and How to Get Started (or go to http://oregonfalconers.com/index.php/falconry/how-to-get-started) for information on how to obtain a license. You will also find links to the federal and state regulations, the North American Falconer’s Association, and a suggested reading list. These will help you in preparing for the written exam, finding a sponsor, and having your facilities inspected. If you are truly determined, the proud and passionate members of the OFA will help you to become the best falconer you can be!

Details of OFA field meets and other public events can be found on our website (http://oregonfalconers.com). Those events are a prime opportunity for you to meet falconers and see hawks and falcons being hunted. Current contact information for the OFA Apprenticeship Coordinator, Regional Directors, Membership Secretary, and other officers can also be found at our website.

Best of luck,

Kort Clayton
President

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