

**Oregon Falconers Association Sponsorship & Apprenticeship Expectations**  
*Adopted by the OFA Board of Directors, 5 April 2015*

## **Sponsor Responsibilities/Expectations**

As a Sponsor, I consider myself to be an experienced Falconer that has actively hunted wild quarry with multiple raptors and therefore, qualified to instruct my apprentice in the sport of Falconry. I understand that I am accepting the responsibility of instructing and mentoring my apprentice(s). Although my Sponsorship is voluntary, when I make the decision to take on an apprentice, I am dedicated to helping them pursue the sport of falconry: the taking of wild quarry with a trained raptor.

### **I agree to the following:**

1. I will be reasonably available to my apprentice(s) for hands on instruction as often as possible.
2. I will instruct my apprentice(s) on the proper care and handling of a raptor, including proper falconry equipment and its use.
3. I will ensure my apprentice(s) are carefully instructed on maintaining the overall health of their raptor, emphasizing the importance of: high quality diet, clean water, and proper housing/tethering to prevent damage to legs, feet, and plumage.
4. I will assist my apprentice(s) with the trapping, manning, training, and hunting of their raptor(s).
5. As often as possible, I will demonstrate hunting with my own raptor(s).
6. I will ensure that my apprentice(s) are aware of how to conduct themselves ethically and lawfully, including responsible posting to social media.

### **What I can expect from my Apprentice:**

1. I can expect that my Apprentice will keep his/her raptor(s) in good feather and in good health and conditioning through proper exercise and flying.
2. My Apprentice will earn advancement to General by showing me success with his/her raptor(s) in: field control, hunting opportunities, and hunting success.
3. I understand that if my Apprentice is unable or unwilling to: train their raptor(s), take wild quarry, provide good care, and/or uphold the ethics of falconry, that I may withdraw my Sponsorship by notifying them and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

## **Apprentice Responsibilities/Expectations**

As an Apprentice, I understand that I am accepting the responsibility of training under a Sponsor to learn the sport of falconry. Specifically, I agree to successfully trap and train raptor(s) to hunt and take wild game cooperatively with me.

### **I agree to the following:**

1. I understand and uphold that falconry is the taking of wild quarry in its natural state with a trained raptor.
2. I am a hunter or am dedicated to becoming a hunter. I understand that as an Apprentice Falconer, I will be helping my raptor hunt and kill wild game such as rabbits, starlings, etc.
3. I am required to have all necessary hunting licenses, as I will be hunting and taking wild game with my raptor. I understand that if I do not actively pursue wild game with my raptor, I will be removed from Sponsorship and/or not advanced to a General Falconer.
4. I understand and agree that it is unacceptable for me to keep a raptor as a pet, and that such pet keeping, or other raptor activities such as demonstration, entertainment, bird abatement, or wildlife rehabilitation is NOT falconry, and is not relevant to a responsible Apprenticeship program.
5. I understand that I will be required to trap and train multiple raptors of the allowed species during my apprenticeship in order to develop a solid foundation in manning, training and hunting.
6. I understand my Sponsor is volunteering, and he/she has the right to withdraw sponsorship at any time. Sponsorship is typically withdrawn if the Sponsor feels that I am not changing behavior deemed inappropriate after I am given feedback and instruction on properly caring for, handling or actively hunting my raptor. Further, I understand my Sponsor will only pass me on to General if I am successful as an Apprentice, as outlined below.\*
7. I agree to uphold all the applicable Federal and Oregon State laws and regulations regarding Falconry.
8. I understand that I will be expected to conduct myself professionally in public and use careful judgment about televised or printed media, including posting on any social media venue.

### What I Can Expect From My Sponsor:

1. I can expect that my Sponsor will provide hands on instruction whenever reasonably possible in areas of: trapping, manning, training, housing, health-care, equipment, hunting, legalities, and ethics.
2. I can reasonably expect that my Sponsor will allow me access to additional mentors or information that he/she has not directly provided, given an effort is made by me to communicate with him/her in order to seamlessly incorporate ideas, concepts and techniques into my raptor's training regime.
3. I can expect that if my Sponsor is unable or unwilling to provide me with instruction that I have the right to acquire another Sponsor.

### \*How My Success is Measured By My Sponsor and Other Falconers:

#### My Raptor's:

1. **Good Health:** I will provide them with high quality food, monitor their weight closely, and be observant of, and treat any illnesses. I will not hesitate to pay for professional Veterinarian care whenever necessary.
2. **Good Feather:** little to no feather breakage unless it occurs while struggling with game.
3. **Good Conditioning:** hunting once a day or 3 times a week provides only basic exercise for raptors. Hawks and falcons that do other exercises (i.e. jump-ups) are healthier, faster, more successful hunters.
4. **Field Control:** I will have solid field control of my raptor as shown by recall and pick up.
5. **Hunting Opportunities / Success:** The more slips and opportunities I provide for my raptor, the more successful they will be.

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APPRENTICE Signature

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Date

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APPRENTICE Printed Name

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SPONSOR Signature

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Date

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SPONSOR Printed Name