



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT A FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD EAGLE EXHIBITION PERMIT

A Federal Eagle Exhibition permit will authorize you to possess Bald Eagles or Golden Eagles (living or dead), parts, nests and eggs for educational purposes. The tenure of a Federal Eagle Exhibition permit is for up to 3 years before renewal is required. You should review Title 50 Parts 10, 13 and 22.21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) with your application. You must meet all requirements of 50 CFR 22.21 to qualify for this permit. **You are responsible for reviewing and understanding these regulations before you request and accept a permit.** These regulations can be found on our website at: [Migratory Bird Permit Memorandum series](#)

1. Who is eligible for an Eagle Exhibition permit?

Only zoological parks, scientific societies and museums that are open to the general public and are either established, maintained, and operated as a governmental service or are privately endowed and organized but not operated for profit are eligible for an Eagle Exhibition permit (50 CFR 10.12 and 50 CFR 22.21). Open to the public means open to the public at least 400 hours per year. Privately endowed includes demonstrating the long-term ability to house, feed and care for each live eagle you acquire. Your endowment should be listed on your IRS Form 990. Therefore, you must complete Section B on page 1 of the application form. You will be required to submit documentation verifying that you meet the eligibility requirement.

2. What experience must I have to qualify for an Eagle Exhibition permit for eagles in a static display (birds remain on exhibit and are not glove-trained for handling purposes)?

Your caretaker must be at least 18 years of age. We recommend 300 hours of experience gained over the course of at least 2 years, in handling and caring for the eagle species you intend to acquire. This experience is to include: training the species or similar species you intend to use in educational programs, the care and feeding of eagles, managing their exhibits (captive husbandry including perching, jessing, etc.) and medical management. A portion of the experience may be fulfilled by participation in migratory bird/raptor handling seminars and courses. You must also provide a written recommendation from another Federal permittee with eagle handling experience.

3. What experience must I have to qualify for an Eagle Exhibition permit for using glove-trained eagles in a conservation education program?

Your caretaker and/or handler must be at least 18 years of age. We recommend 500 hours of experience with eagles, gained over the course of at least 2 years, in handling and caring for the eagle species you intend to acquire. This experience is to include: training the species or similar species you intend to use in educational programs, the care and feeding of eagles, captive husbandry (including perching, jessing, etc.) and medical management. In addition, your conservation education program experience listed in your application should include documentation of presenting programs using glove-trained eagles over the course of at least 2 years. A portion of the experience may be fulfilled by participation in migratory bird/raptor handling seminars and courses.

You must also have a written recommendation from another Federal permittee with eagle handling experience.

4. What are the caging requirements for live eagles used in a static display and/or for glove-trained eagles?

All eagles authorized by a Federal Eagle Exhibition permit must be maintained under humane and healthful conditions as required in 50 CFR 13.41. Facilities must be adequate for each species you plan to possess. In evaluating whether caging dimensions are adequate, the Service will use as a guideline the standards established by The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota's 2007 publication "Raptors In Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management". These guidelines recommend a minimum enclosure of 12' L x 10'W x 9'H for a non-flighted eagle and a minimum enclosure of 40'L x 10'W x 9'H for a flighted eagle. Multiple eagles will require additional space. The Service recommends increasing the enclosure size by at least one-half LxW for every additional eagle. Contact your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office for assistance with housing requirements.

Applicants should also contact their State wildlife agency for information about any additional caging requirements they may have.

5. How can I acquire live eagles authorized by a Federal Eagle Exhibition permit?

You must obtain approval prior to obtaining live eagles. To acquire or transfer eagles, you must follow instructions on page 2 of the Migratory Bird and Eagle Acquisition and Transfer Request Form (Form 3-202-12). Live eagles used for educational purposes must be non-releasable and lawfully acquired from another federal permittee. Federal Eagle Exhibition permittees are financially responsible for any transportation and handling costs associated with acquiring eagles. Permittees should also contact their state wildlife agency for information about required state authorizations.

6. What procedures are required to transfer the eagle(s) authorized by a Federal Eagle Exhibition permit to a new location?

If your physical address will change, you must obtain prior approval for your facilities for housing eagles at the new location by providing pictures and diagrams, including the L x W x H dimensions and a description of materials used for construction. (50 CFR 13.23) Any change in address or other circumstances that affect your permit (e.g., change in principal officer, caretaker or physical location as listed on the permit) must be reported to your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office in writing within 10 days so your permit can be amended.

7. How can I acquire mounted eagles or eagle specimens for educational exhibit?

Most eagle specimens must be sent to the National Eagle Repository (Repository) for distribution to Native Americans. The Service Manual chapter (720 FWS 6) requires all eagle remains, (including those of live eagles that died while in captivity), molted eagle feathers and eagle parts are sent to the Repository. For more information about the Repository, visit www.fws.gov/eaglerepository/. For assistance in locating mounted eagles or eagle specimens, contact your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office.

8. Is the Eagle Exhibition Permit to be used for a specific type of education?

Yes. The intent of this permit is wildlife conservation education. Conservation, biology, and/or ecology must be a primary component of all educational programs conducted using migratory birds, including eagles. Other topics such as falconry or cultural significance of eagles may also be included in the program.

9. What is the educational program requirement for each eagle authorized under this permit?

A minimum of 12 gloved programs that are open to the public must be presented each year. If eagles are only on static display for educational purposes, eagles must be on public exhibit for a minimum of 400 hours per year. The authority to possess eagles will be subject to re-evaluation if this requirement is not met.

10. Is the public allowed to handle or touch live eagles?

No. All live eagles must be kept under control at all times and may not come in contact with audience members.

11. Can I use eagles for commercial purposes?

No. Eagles possessed or transported for educational purposes may not be displayed in any manner that implies personal use. You may not use eagles to promote or endorse any product, merchandise, goods, services, business or organization except your own educational activities. Educational programs are not considered commercial activities.

12. Do I need a State permit to possess eagles?

Your Federal permit is not valid unless you also are in compliance with State requirements. This means that if your State requires a permit to possess eagles for educational or exhibit purposes, you must hold a valid State permit in order for your Federal permit to be valid. You will be required to submit a copy of your State permit as part of your application package. It is your responsibility to make sure you comply with State permit requirements.

13. Will I be required to keep records of my activities with eagles authorized by this permit?

Yes. You must maintain accurate records of operations on a calendar-year basis. Records must be legibly written or reproducible in English and maintained for five years from the date of expiration of the permit. Your records should reflect the acquisition, veterinary care and disposition of each eagle that is held under a Federal Eagle Exhibition permit and the number of presentations given with each eagle. (50 CFR 13.46)

14. Will anyone inspect my records or eagles held for educational purposes?

By accepting a Federal Eagle Exhibition permit, you authorize an agent of the Service to enter your premises at any reasonable hour to inspect the eagles in your care, your books or records. (50 CFR 13.47)

15. Will I be required to submit an annual report of activities?

Yes. The report form can be found on our website at: [Annual Report Form 3-202-13](#) or you may request one from your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office. This report must be completed and submitted to your issuing office by January 31 of each year.

16. How do I renew my permit?

If you wish to renew your permit, you must submit a renewal application to your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office at least 30 days prior to the expiration of your permit and include a copy of your current State license, if one is required. If we receive your renewal request at least 30 days prior to the expiration of your permit, your permit will remain valid beyond the expiration date for the activity authorized on your permit until a decision on your renewal is made. If we receive your renewal request fewer than 30 days prior to expiration of your permit and we are unable to process your request before the expiration date, your permit will expire and you will no longer be covered for your activity.