

The mission of HawkWatch International is to conserve our environment through education, long-term monitoring, and scientific research on raptors as indicators of ecosystem health.

HawkWatch International's Education Department works to impassion audiences about raptors and the threats they face in order to foster behaviors that help conserve our shared environment.

Our Approach

Many of our programs follow the “5 E’s” education model to create inquiry-based, participatory learning experiences that *inspire wonder, create understanding, and encourage action.*

Inspiring wonder

Express an interest in raptors

Creating understanding

Basic definitions, raptors’ role in the larger environment, natural history of raptors, threats to raptors and mitigating solutions

Encouraging Action

Become aware of raptors in their environment and take action to positively affect raptors and the environment.

Whenever possible, we use the “**5 E’s**” **Model** to create inquiry based and participatory learning experiences for our audiences.

Engage

Connect with participants by presenting a threat, novelty, or other attractive element

Explore

Present activities for participant self- or small group discovery. Investigate topics in small groups and employ science process skills to delve deeper into the subject

Explain

Share the results of self-discovery with the larger group and clear up misconceptions

Elaborate

Apply knowledge to a new problem or context

Evaluate

Assess the learning process

Program Formats

To reach our education goals, we employ conservation science data, our live bird collection, photo and slide library, educational website/learning platform, our staff and our core of trained volunteers to offer educational experiences in multiple formats:

- **Programs:** Short programs with live birds, geared for the general public or school community. Examples: programs for revenue in school or community.
- **Series:** More than one program, presented over time, teaching more content with more detail, with live birds when possible. Examples: HawkTalks, TALONS teacher workshops, internal training events
- **Special Events:** Educational events with a fundraising component
- **Lectures:** Special events with keynote speakers from the raptor science world and invitations to the scientific, birding and general community.
- **Field trips:** Either public-driven field trips to our field sites or HWI sponsored field trips to raptor hot spots. Examples: field site interpretation, Raptor Road Trip
- **Website:** Educational content on www.hawkwatch.org or www.hwi-talons.org (special target audience website for educators and their students, tied specifically to LTM efforts)
- **Printed media:** Articles in RaptorWatch, brochures which support the messages of other program formats.
- **Exhibits:** Visual representations of HWI conservation messages, browsed by self-learners in a free atmosphere or interpreted by a staff member or volunteer.
- **Conversations:** Informal gatherings at field sites, interpretive discussions that lack a specific format or timeframe and follow the flow of learner questions or observations.
- **Other instructional media:** Use of other forms of informative media including (but not limited to) audio CDs, CD-ROMs, radio, television, podcasts, etc.

Participants

HWI's Education Program focuses on the Salt Lake City community as well as communities around our field sites (including our satellite office in Albuquerque) and on the worldwide web. Target audiences include the birding community, the eco-concerned, people who are already interested in or curious about raptors, education leaders, and potentially decision-makers (policy, corporate, etc.). In the long-term, target audiences will emerge from threats assessments. Internally, we assist in the training of field and course educators, volunteers, and field crews.