



IAF Education Working Group

Youth Exchange Project - Opportunity with Josef and Monika Hiebeler at the Landesjagdfalkenhof Werfen, and breeding facilities including hunting training of eagles - AUSTRIA

General Overview of „Hiebeler’s Centers“:

This exchange provides a youth with the possibility of experiencing the traditional falconry of Central Europe in Austria. The youth will have the opportunity to work with endemic or traditionally used species of birds of prey such as saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*), peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), hobby falcons (*Falco subbuteo*), golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) or imperial eagles (*Aquila heliaca*), Eurasian black vultures (*Aegypius monachus*) or Eurasian griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) as well as with exotic species like Harris hawks, black chested buzzard



eagles (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*), and many more.

Some of the birds are exclusively used in the context of flying displays, which require daily tasks, while others are also maintained as active hunting birds, which need to be trained during the period of September to October for the

new hunting season. Both types are considered to be active falconry birds!



IAF Education Working Group



An exchange will be possible for 3 to 4 weeks and the responsibilities of the guest include things such as hawk food management (killing and preparing food), daily routine work related to display tasks such as weight controls / weighing birds of prey or training several eagle species to hunt.



Depending on the abilities, previous knowledge, and enthusiasm of the youth, it may be possible for them to be given one specific bird to train, fly and hunt with throughout the course of their stay, and if this falls within the official hunting season from October to December. Participants are expected to be willing and able to help around the facilities for around 8 hours a day and to undertake the above listed activities as well as other raptor related tasks which

may arise. The flying season for displays starts from April to November, so an exchange should be arranged with anticipation for a period within this time period. A private bedroom and 3 meals a day (including breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be provided by the hosts.





IAF Education Working Group

