

# **Enjoying Hawk Mountain: TEACHER GUIDE**

(Grades 6 - 8)

## **Raptors and the Central Appalachian Forest**

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary  
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Kempton, Pennsylvania 19529

Copies of this publication are available online from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, [www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org),  
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*We conserve  
Only what we love*

*We love  
Only what we understand*

*We understand  
Only what we are taught*

*Baba Dioum, Senegal*

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## About the *Guide*

Thank you for your interest in Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and its *Enjoying Hawk Mountain: Teacher Guide (raptors and the central Appalachian forest)*. To help you make the best use of these materials, we offer the following general information and suggestions.

The *Guide* was developed as an educational aid to help neighboring school districts implement Environmental Education requirements as dictated by the Commonwealth Board of Education regulations, Chapter 5, which states that: “Each student shall understand the environment and the student’s ecological relationship with it in order to develop attitudes and behaviors necessary for maintaining the quality of life in a healthy and balanced environment.”

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has been a leading environmental education center for more than 70 years. Information and activities suggested in this *Guide* have drawn on this experience to produce a teaching tool that is both practical and effective. The *Guide* replaces the Hawk Mountain Teacher Packet.

The *Guide* covers two subject areas: raptors and the central Appalachian mountain forests. Each section includes activities that may be incorporated into pre-visit lessons or, as time permits, used as reinforcement activities following your field trip to Hawk Mountain. A list of topic-related references and other resources is included.

Pages in the *Guide* are labeled as either a topic page or an activity page. Topic pages contain background material for the teacher to read and incorporate into pre- or post-field trip lessons. Topic pages also can be photocopied and used as background reading for older students. Activity pages contain activities that have been prepared for students and can be photocopied or otherwise used as the teacher chooses. The levels of difficulty for activities span a fair range, but are primarily geared toward ages 12-15. A glossary is included for teacher and student use.

One of the main reasons for developing this *Guide* is to encourage teachers to use the Sanctuary to teach about the natural environment. The Sanctuary’s 2,400 acres of Appalachian forest, along a major flyway for migrating birds of prey, provides an excellent outdoor laboratory for teachers as they attempt to ensure that the next generation of leaders and citizens are environmentally literate. A visit to the Sanctuary brings alive topics covered in the classroom. For teachers who may lack the experience of teaching in the outdoors, trained Sanctuary naturalists are available. Teachers can schedule a guided field trip with a focus on a specific topic or a general natural history program where several natural history topics will be covered. One suggestion would be to schedule two trips during the school year: one in autumn with a focus on raptors and their migration, and one in spring with focus on the Appalachian forest ecosystem.

An important part of the *Guide* is the “Field-trip notebook.” How thoroughly and in what manner this notebook is used is up to you. The notebook is meant to be photocopied and distributed to students prior to your visit. Your guide will cover most of the material within the notebook during the field trip.

Brochures describing Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, a detailed map of the grounds, and information on education programs and other resources are available free through the Sanctuary.

We hope that the *Guide* will help make your field-trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and your study of raptors and the Central Appalachian forest a more rewarding experience for both you and your students.

The *Guide* is a very long document. Revisions and improvements to it are underway.

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Hawk Mountain Sanctuary  
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