



# Wild Felid Research & Management Association

Research. Manage. Educate. Conserve

## HOW TO BECOME A WFA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

### Interested in Becoming a Student Representative for the WFA?

We are currently seeking student representatives and there are many opportunities available! As a student representative, students have the unique opportunity to network on a professional level with researchers, conservationists, educators, managers and others working with wild felids in their state. They are asked to provide bi-annual summary reports of current events in their state (see examples in recent *Wild Felid Monitor* issues) and to recruit others to submit more in-depth articles to the *Wild Felid Monitor* publication. This provides a great resume-building opportunity and student representatives will have a short biography and photo available on the WFA website.

**We are seeking** current graduate or undergraduate students interested in wild felids (not required to be currently working with wild felids). Please visit the Student Representative page of our website (<http://www.wildfelid.com/Student%20Rep%20Bios.php>) to see what states are in need of representation.

**If you are not a student** and you are still interested in opportunities to get involved with the WFA, please contact one of our Regional Representatives (<http://www.wildfelid.com/monitor.php#aboutWFM>).

### Student Representative Duties

WFA Student Representatives are highly-motivated volunteer members of the WFA that are presently enrolled at a university (undergraduate or graduate studies) and agree to biannually report to the WFA Student Representative Coordinator (currently Sarah Hegg, [sarahjhegg@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjhegg@gmail.com)) on activities within their assigned state or geographic area concerning wild felid research, conservation, and/or education. This will require the student rep to contact appropriate departments & professors in area universities and colleges, identify professors and students that are involved in felid research /education and then maintain a line of communication with those contacts. Students are encouraged to also contact appropriate management agencies (state and federal) outside the university system. Contacts will report on any pertinent activities to the student rep and these will be presented in upcoming issues of the *Wild Felid Monitor* or on the WFA website ([www.wildfelid.org](http://www.wildfelid.org)). **Information can be presented as updates (summarized by the student rep) or as articles (submitted by the contact).**

### Content of Student Updates

Updates are written by the student rep, typically 200-300 words in length. Updates will inform readers of the *Wild Felid Monitor* of activities that:

- 🐾 Promote sound stewardship of wild felids through scientifically based population and habitat management.

- 🐾 Encourage communication and collaboration across scientific disciplines and among those interested in research, management, and conservation of wild felids.
- 🐾 Increase public awareness and understanding of ecology, conservation, and management of wild felids.
- 🐾 Encourage professional growth and development of our members.
- 🐾 Provide professional and unbiased updates on policy issues related to wild felid management and conservation.
- 🐾 Develop or provide access to key resources and tools.

### **Additional Reports**

Reports can be submitted in addition to the state updates. In some cases, contact reports can be submitted in place of a state update (contact the student rep coordinator to discuss this option).

- A. Website posts. These can be of variable length and can be submitted at any time. Typically they are announcements such as upcoming seminars or courses, graduate positions, new publications, etc.
- B. Articles submitted by the contact. Articles typically outline research activities, comprise up to 750 words, and can include accompanying photos or figures.

Updates and reports are compiled by the Student Representative Coordinator and edited at the discretion of the editor of the *Wild Felid Monitor*. Reporting deadlines are **April 15** and **October 15** each year.

### **How to become a Student Representative**

- 🐾 Read through this document in its entirety
- 🐾 Become a member of the WFA (students get discounted membership)
- 🐾 Read through regional reports in past issues of the *Wild Felid Monitor*
- 🐾 Email the Student Rep Coordinator (currently Sarah Hegg, [sarahjhegg@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjhegg@gmail.com)) a brief letter of interest and current CV
- 🐾 Commit to representing the WFA in a professional manner and submit a regional update for the next issue of *Wild Felid Monitor*
- 🐾 Once you are accepted as a Student Representative you will be expected to:
  - Provide a 100-200 word bio and photo for the website
  - Submit a regional update for the next *Wild Felid Monitor* issue
  - Submit brief bi-annual check-in emails notifying the Student Rep Coordinator about 1) what you have been working on, who you have been contacting, what leads you are pursuing, what your progress is, etc, 2) if you plan on submitting an update for the next issue or if you have recruited someone else to submit an article
  - Recruit a replacement student rep when you graduate

