



We are pleased to announce ~

The 2019 Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship

The Wild Felid Research and Management Association began awarding the Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship in 2009 to encourage and support graduate level university students involved in wild felid research. To date, 26 scholarships have been awarded. The scholarship honors distinguished and dedicated biologists who lost their lives while seeking to understand and contribute to the conservation of wildlife: Dave Maehr, Ian Ross, Rocky Spencer, Eric York, Deanna Dawn, and Donna Krucki. More on these inspiring biologists can be found on the WFA's web site: www.wildfelid.org. Scholarships are made possible through grants and donations to WFA from The Summerlee Foundation, Deanna Dawn's family, Altria Group, WFA members, and other contributors.

PURPOSE OF THE FUND: The Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship provides financial aid to a graduate-level university student conducting research on one of the Western Hemisphere's wild felids. Two to three scholarships of \$1000 to \$1500 will be awarded during summer 2019 and recipients will be recognized in the WFA's newsletter, the *Wild Felid Monitor*. Applications are evaluated based on: demonstrated need for financial aid; participation in a research project that aims to improve our understanding of wild felid biology, management and/or conservation; and recommendations by professors and supervisors. WFA will continue to offer the scholarship on an annual basis, contingent on funding.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND ADMINISTRATION: The WFA's Scholarship Committee (SC) administers the Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship and selects recipients, who are subject to approval by a majority of the WFA Board of Directors. The SC reserves the right not to award a scholarship or to award more than one scholarship during a calendar year, depending on the SC's opinion of the applicants' qualifications and the availability of funds. All SC decisions are final.

APPLICATION CRITERIA: Scholarship Applicants must be a student member of the Wild Felid Research and Management Association (if not currently a member, simply go to our website at www.wildfelid.org and sign up). As of July 1, 2019, applicants also must have completed a Bachelor's Degree and be enrolled in a graduate program in Wildlife Biology, Wildlife Management, or a related natural resource field, with a research focus that includes wild felids. Recipients agree to provide at least one update on their graduate work for inclusion in the *Wild Felid Monitor*.

APPLICATION DETAILS (also see <http://www.wildfelid.org/legacy.php>): The application includes 5 parts:

1. Current résumé.
2. Transcript indicating completion of a Bachelor's Degree.
3. A copy of your acceptance letter into a graduate program in Wildlife Biology, Wildlife Management, or related field.
4. Two letters of reference (with phone numbers and email addresses): one from a professor familiar with your academic capabilities and accomplishments; the second from a supervisor whom you worked for in a natural resources related position (volunteer or internship work is acceptable).
5. A short essay (500-750 words) describing: (1) your interests in wild felid research; (2) your career goals; (3) how you would use the award to further your professional development; and (4) your demonstration of financial need. At the top of your essay, provide the following: name and email address; degree applying for; department and university attending; major advisor and his email address; thesis/dissertation title; research objectives; completion date.

To see how applications are scored, visit our scholarship page at www.wildfelid.org/legacy.php and click on "Evaluation form used to score applicants."

Emailed applications are preferred. Parts 1 and 5 (résumé and essay) should be sent as Word documents. Clearly name files with your last name and subject (e.g., Smith WFLS Essay.doc). Emailed copies of scanned transcripts are acceptable, though the SC may ask for certified transcripts prior to final selection. References can also send their letters electronically.

All application materials must be received by the Scholarship Chairperson by **MARCH 30 2019**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Completed applications should be emailed (preferred) or mailed to:

Dr. Marcella Kelly, Associate Professor

Emailing: makelly2@vt.edu, put "Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship Application" in the subject line

Mailing:

Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences

146 Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321, USA

