

First Year Research Award: Biological and Environmental Sciences:

Spotted turtle surveys techniques and population monitoring

Faculty Supervisor:

Professor Richard S. Phillips



Position Title: First Year Research Scholar in Wildlife Ecology

Criteria: The Wittenberg University **Biology Department** will offer a First Year Research Award for the academic year 2022-2023 to an incoming student to work with **Dr. Richard Phillips**. This student will have a demonstrated academic ability and/or research interest in **ecology or wildlife management**.

Expectations: FYRA Scholarship recipients will devote between 6 and 8 hours per week across their first year to FYRA program and their research-related project, according to the FYRA Learning Contract agreed upon by the sponsoring professor and the scholarship recipient. Recipients will also be expected to participate in a regular meeting of FYRA recipients, present their results in an appropriate forum and submit a copy of their presentation to the appropriate university office. FYRA Scholarship recipients will also participate in an assessment of the FYRA program. (The FYRA Scholarship is not part of a student's work study award.)

Research Activity: The Spotted turtle, *Clemmys guttata*, is a threatened species in Ohio relegated to isolated populations in the state. Since 2017, our lab has monitored a population of spotted turtles in southwestern Ohio. As a research assistant, you will assist with the mark-recapture study throughout southwestern Ohio by capturing and marking spotted turtles to estimate their numbers. You provide evaluate trapping variables that may increase the likelihood of capturing turtles to help other managers document spotted turtles on their property. in hopes of better understanding spotted turtle habitat needs, you will also master the art of radio telemetry to track turtles using radio transmitters. Recipients should be critical thinkers, detail-oriented, and reliable. Experience working in the outdoors is highly desirable but not required.