

**First Year Research Award:**

**Biology**

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**Faculty Supervisor:**

**Professor Richard S. Phillips**

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**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 2021-2022 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 at local Clark County fens. As a research assistant, you will assist with the mark-recapture study at both sites by capturing and marking spotted turtles to estimate their numbers. You will gain animal handling experience, become efficient at running a trapline to monitor turtle populations, and hone identification skills of turtles, snakes, frogs, and fish. The potential exists for a radio-telemetry aspect of the project to begin at some point during spring semester 2022. You will examine trapping variables that influence the likelihood of capturing turtles to help other managers document spotted turtles on their property. Recipients should be critical thinkers, detail-oriented, and reliable. Experience working in the outdoors is highly desirable but not required.

Scholarship recipients will receive priority consideration for paid summer research positions and research positions during the 2023 - 2024 academic year.