

First Year Research Award: **Biological and Environmental Sciences**

Faculty Supervisor: **Dr. Timothy M. Swartz**

Position Title: First Year Research Scholar in Restoration Ecology

Criteria: The Wittenberg University Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences will offer a First Year Research Award for the academic year 2024-2025 to an incoming student to work with Dr. Timothy Swartz. This student will have a demonstrated academic ability and/or research interest in ecology, wildlife, or habitat restoration.

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: Restoring habitats is crucial to ensuring that plants and animals thrive in our forests, wetlands, and meadows. Our lab is working to design, implement, and monitor ecological restoration activities in local natural areas. As a research assistant, you will contribute to surveys of wildlife using camera traps, bird counts, and insect sampling. You will also use tools to measure habitat using satellite imagery and land cover maps. Together, we will develop an assessment of the biological diversity in our region and determine how habitat restoration activities impact the wildlife in our parks and preserves. You will have the opportunity to communicate your findings to park managers and other stakeholder groups. Recipients of this award should be critical thinkers, detail-oriented, and reliable. Experience working in the outdoors is desirable, but not required. For more information about Dr. Swartz's research activities, please visit www.timothyswartz.com.

Scholarship recipients will receive priority consideration for paid summer research positions and research positions during the 2025-2026 academic year.