



# 2012 Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship

Application deadline March 30, 2012

The Wild Felid Research and Management Association began awarding the Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship in 2009. The scholarship was created to encourage and support a graduate-level university student involved in wild felid research. Since inception, six scholarships have been awarded: two in each year, 2009-2011. The scholarship is offered in honor of four distinguished and dedicated biologists who lost their lives while seeking to understand and conserve wildlife, including wild felids:

Dave Maehr (1956-2008), Ian Ross (1958-2003), Rocky Spencer (1952-2007), and Eric York (1970-2007).

More on these four inspiring researchers can be found on the WFA's web site [www.wildfelid.org](http://www.wildfelid.org).

## PURPOSE OF THE FUND

The Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship provides financial aid to a graduate-level university student conducting research on wild felids. The scholarship is awarded during summer. The recipient receives \$1,000 and is 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 undergraduate and graduate GPA. Awarding of the scholarship is contingent on available funds; however, the WFA Council hopes that donations and grants will enable WFA to offer the scholarship annually.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND ADMINISTRATION

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

## APPLICATION CRITERIA

Applicants for the Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship must meet the following criteria:

1. You must be a student member of the Wild Felid Research and Management Association. (You may submit a membership form with payment to WFA when submitting your scholarship application if you are not currently a member)
2. By July 1 of the year you apply for the scholarship, you must have completed a Bachelor of Science (or Arts) Degree and be enrolled in a graduate program in Wildlife Biology, Wildlife Management, or a related natural resource field.
3. Recipients of the Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship agree to provide an update of their research in the *Wild Felid Monitor*.

## APPLICATION

The application includes 5 parts:

1. Current résumé.
2. Transcript indicating completion of a Bachelor's Degree.
3. Transcript of your graduate studies or a copy of your acceptance letter into a graduate program in Wildlife Biology, Wildlife Management, or a related natural resource field.
4. Two letters of reference (with phone numbers and email addresses).

One reference shall be from a professor familiar with your academic capabilities and accomplishments. The second reference shall be 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 so we may include it in the summer issue of the *Wild Felid Monitor*: Name and email address; degree applying for; department and university attending; major advisor and his email address; thesis/dissertation title; research objectives; completion date.

We encourage applicants to send parts 1 and 5 (résumé and essay) of their applications electronically. Please clearly name files with your last name and subject (e.g., Smith WFLS Essay.doc). Emailed copies of scanned transcripts are also acceptable for consideration, though the Scholarship Committee may ask for certified transcripts prior to final selection. References can also send their letters electronically.

**Application materials must be received by the Scholarship Chairperson by MARCH 30.**

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Address correspondence to the Scholarship Committee Chairperson: Dr. Marcella Kelly.

Submit electronic application to Dr. Kelly at:

[makelly2@vt.edu](mailto:makelly2@vt.edu)

Put "Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship Application" in the subject line

Submit paper application to:

Marcella Kelly - Associate Professor  
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Virginia Tech  
146 Cheatham Hall  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321