

## Description

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### GREAT EXPERIENCE



Please note this is a complete volunteer experience that requires a project fee (see below), which covers room, board, and in-country transport. Additionally, you must obtain your own transportation to Belize. If that is not an impediment, continue reading...

We are seeking 5-10 motivated field assistants for our wild cat study in Belize, Central America. This study focuses on jaguars, pumas, and ocelots using non-invasive detection methods. The study researches the long-term demographics of jaguar populations and the impacts of selective/sustainable logging at multiple sites across Belize.

Volunteers will gain extensive field experience setting up large remote camera grids across tropical broadleaf and/or tropical pine forests, conducting habitat surveys in neotropical forest, orienteering with GPS and map and compass, and entering data and maintaining a database.

Job includes hiking/driving trails on dirt roads to remote camera stations and to collect vegetation data surrounding camera stations. Field assistants may be required to carry heavy equipment, and may often hike long distances through rough (but relatively flat) terrain, and bushwhack through thick vegetation. Work will also include shared data entry and camp and vehicle maintenance/running errands and other household chores.

Rustic living conditions in a tropical environment (meaning very hot and humid weather, snakes, and biting insects). Field assistants will be living in close living quarters with their co-workers and will be expected to chip in with group cooking, cleaning, and other basic field-house chores.

## Qualifications

Wildlife biology student or a related field (biology, forestry, natural resources, etc.). **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**, but the applicant must have a positive and flexible attitude, and be enthusiastic and ready to learn, a strong work ethic and good ability to get along with others in tight, close-knit, living conditions.

Ability to drive a standard (manual) transmission and backpacking skills are not required but are a plus.

This is a complete volunteer position, meaning that technician will need to pay for their plane ticket and a project fee of \$1750 per month (1 month minimum required). This project fee covers food, accommodations, and all in-country transport, while in Belize (except for days off). The experience is a resume builder for wild cat work, and is much less expensive than a typical study abroad experience. A large number of past students

have received funding and/or independent study credit from their host institution to participate.

Summer positions available from ~May 1, 2020 through October 15, 2020

Winter positions available from ~December 17, 2020 to March 15, 2021

Please e-mail a resume/cv, letter of interest, and list of three references with contact info to Darby McPhail at [dkm5ek@virginia.edu](mailto:dkm5ek@virginia.edu) and Marcella Kelly at [makelly2@vt.edu](mailto:makelly2@vt.edu)

Application Deadline: ASAP, will be filled continuously.