Jaguar Project-Central America

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
GREAT EXPERIENCE

Please note this is a complete volunteer experience that requires a project fee, which covers room, board, and in-country transport. Additionally, you must pay for your plane ticket in addition to the project fee. If that is not an impediment, continue reading...

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 in:

- 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
- entering data and maintaining a database

This experience is a resume builder for wild cat work and is much less expensive than any typical study abroad experience. A large number of past students have received funding and/or independent study credit from their host institution to participate.

Job includes:

- hiking/driving trails on dirt roads to remote camera stations and to collect vegetation data surrounding camera stations
- carrying heavy equipment and may often hike long distances through rough (but relatively flat) terrain
- bushwhacking through thick vegetation
- completing data entry
- assisting in camp and vehicle maintenance such as running errands and doing household chores

Field house/living conditions:

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

Qualifications- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

- Wildlife biology student or a related field (biology, forestry, natural resources, etc)
- must have a positive and flexible attitude, and be enthusiastic and ready to learn
- a strong work ethic and physical toughness
- 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).

Summer positions available from May 1 – October 15
Winter positions available from Dec 17 through March 17

Please e-mail a resume/cv, letter of interest, and list of three references with contact info to both Co-project leader Darby McPhail at dkm5ek@virginia.edu and Principal Investigator Marcella Kelly at makelly2@vt.edu

Application Deadline: ASAP, will be filled continuously.