

Herpetology Field Technicians (2-4) in Indiana and Michigan

We are seeking field technicians to assist with herpetological research over the summer of 2017, approximately from early May – August. Pay will be \$10-15/hour for 40 hours/week, depending upon experience.

A) Spotted Turtle and Blanding's Turtle Surveys in Indiana

1-2 technicians will assist with intensive visual encounter surveys in northern Indiana for spotted turtles (*Clemmys guttata*) and Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*), including turtle capturing and processing, and habitat characterization and suitability assessment. The surveys will involve walking through various wetland habitats to determine the presence or absence of the two species at each site, as well as other herpetofauna. Applicants should be comfortable working in demanding environmental conditions with high humidity and temperatures, uneven terrain, mosquitoes, and dense vegetation. Experience surveying herpetofauna and identifying plant species are highly preferred. The ability to work independently and as part of a cohesive team are required.

Shared hotel rooms will be provided when surveying different sites across the state, but permanent housing will not be provided. As such, the technicians will need to find housing near Fort Wayne, Indiana. The use of a personal vehicle for work-related travel will also be required, but travel expenses to and from field sites will be reimbursed. Applicants must be 18 years or older, have completed or be progressing through a four-year degree from an accredited college or university (biology, wildlife management, ecology, or related field), and have a valid driver's license.

B) Massasauga Radio-tracking in Michigan

1-2 technicians will assist 2 graduate students with capturing and radio-tracking federally threatened massasaugas (*Sistrurus catenatus*) at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in northern Michigan as part of 2 ongoing studies. One study is assessing the efficacy of soft-release translocation as a conservation management technique for relocating massasaugas; the other is characterizing their habitat use for future modeling purposes. Technicians will assist with radio-tracking, searching for new massasaugas, entering and organizing data, sterilizing equipment, and so on. Previous experience radio-tracking and working with venomous snakes or other dangerous wildlife is highly preferred, as is experience surveying for cryptic wildlife and recording habitat data. Applicants will need to be comfortable working long hours alone and as part of a cohesive research team around venomous snakes and in habitats that can be extremely hot, humid, buggy, and densely vegetated (e.g. wetlands). Excellent communication skills are a must, as this research takes place on a military base (sometimes on or near firing ranges) and requires collaborating closely with the research team and various military personnel.

Shared housing will be provided at no cost at a field station that is nearby Camp Grayling (~20-minute drive) and operated by Michigan State University. There is no air conditioning, and the internet and cell service are limited at the field house, but these amenities are available in town and at Camp Grayling. That said, the field site is in a beautiful area on the Au Sable River and is near several state parks. A personal vehicle for work-related travel is required (4WD or AWD recommended but not required), and travel expenses will be reimbursed as allowed. Applicants must be 18 years or older, have a four-year degree from an accredited college or university (biology, wildlife management, ecology, or related field), and have a valid driver's license.

Contact Information

Qualified applicants should email a letter of interest, a CV/resume that describes academic background and relevant experience, and the names and contact information for three references to Dr. Bruce Kingsbury at erc@ipfw.edu. Please put "Field Technician" in the subject line and clearly indicate which position is your first choice to help us sort incoming messages, as we are anticipating a strong response. Applications will be accepted until February 15th, but review of applications will begin February 1st and positions filled as soon as possible thereafter.