



ORGANIZATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION MANAGERS

OFWIM 2024 Annual Conference and Business Meeting to be held at Arcadia Academy, 211 S. College St., Arcadia, Missouri, 63621, October 7 – 10, 2024

STUDENT RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Purpose: The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) Student Research Scholarship recognizes academic and professional excellence among students enrolled full-time in fisheries, wildlife, or biodiversity conservation-related curricula at an accredited college or university, with research or studies emphasizing novel collection, spatial analysis, modeling, and/or dissemination of wildlife information. This scholarship award supports student research as well as attendance at the OFWIM Annual Conference and Business meeting. To learn more about OFWIM, visit the web site (<http://www.ofwim.org>).

Criteria:

1. The Award will be awarded to two undergraduate or graduate students who are working towards a program, such as a Bachelor's degree, Graduate Certificate Program, Master's degree or PhD. Membership in OFWIM is not required for eligibility.
2. The Elections, Nominations, and Awards Committee will award the scholarship based on the following criteria:

Quality of Applicant

- Academic background suitable for project
- Academic opportunities the student has engaged
- Motivation: sincere curiosity and interest in topic or research experience
- Faculty advisor's assessment of the student's performance and potential
- Has promise of future professional involvement and significant contribution toward the field of fish and wildlife-related information management or technology

Quality of Research Project

- Student's level of participation in the research
- Student's effort, commitment, and enthusiasm for the project
- Project contains significant elements of advancement of fish and wildlife information management processes, or introduces new technology for such, or new uses of existing technology.
- Project may be part of an ongoing thesis/dissertation, but student must be able to demonstrate significant progress of the project during the year the scholarship is in effect, if awarded.

The award recipient must present a formal paper on the research project prospectus during the OFWIM 2024 Annual Conference and Business Meeting, to be held at Arcadia Academy, 211 S. College St., Arcadia, Missouri, 63621, October 7 – 10, 2024.

The recipient must also present a formal paper on the research project results or significant progress during the **2025 OFWIM Annual Conference and Business Meeting to be held the first week of October 2025.**

Application Procedure:

3. Any qualified student may apply for the scholarship by completing the Student Application Form, Part I (attached). The student's faculty advisor must verify the accuracy of all information provided in Part I. In addition, the faculty advisor must complete and sign Part II of the application.
4. The completed and signed application form (Parts I and II) must be received by the Committee Chair on or before the deadline – **August 30, 2024.**
5. The scholarship will be available on an annual basis.

Scholarship Award:

6. The successful recipients of the scholarship will be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship toward the research project, awarded as 2 - \$500 awards, the first to be presented at the **2024 conference**, and the second upon completion of the project at the **2025 conference.**
7. In addition, the recipients will be awarded a student conference registration fee waiver for two years and up to \$1,000 in conference travel reimbursement to the full conference the second year.



Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers Student Research Scholarship Application Form

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) Student Research Scholarship program recognizes academic and professional excellence among students enrolled full-time in fisheries, wildlife, or biodiversity conservation-related curricula at an accredited college or university, with research or studies emphasizing novel collection, spatial analysis, modeling, and/or dissemination of wildlife information.

Send (1) one digital copy (Parts I and II) to:

Joe Weber, Chair, OFWIM Elections, Nominations, and Awards Committee
Chief of Biodiversity Information and Conservation Tools
Virginia Natural Heritage Program
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Joseph.Weber@dcr.virginia.gov

For additional information, please contact Joe Weber at the above e-mail address.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 30, 2024. (The ENA Committee will review applications soon after the deadline, to allow recipients time to plan travel to the conference.)

Part I. To be completed by the applicant.

Name of Applicant:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Current College/University:

Major course of Study:

Current Status (check one):

Undergraduate:

BA/BS (anticipated graduation date [Click here to enter text.](#))

Graduate:

MS (year started _____), (year completed _____), (anticipated graduation date _____)

PhD (year started _____), (anticipated graduation date _____)

Grade Point Average: BA/BS MS PhD

Part I, continued.

1. Describe your career goals and knowledge of collection, spatial analysis, modeling, and/or dissemination of information related to fish, wildlife or biodiversity conservation. Include any leadership qualities and professional activities you have had in your field of study (e.g., presentations, publications, memberships, symposia, awards, etc.), if applicable.
2. Provide the title and a brief abstract of the research paper you would present at the OFWIM Conferences, if selected for this scholarship.
3. Attach copy of transcript from your current institution of higher learning (does not have to be an official copy).

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Note: The information contained in Part I must be verified and signed by the Faculty Advisor.

Faculty Advisor Signature:

Date:

Part II. To be completed by the student's faculty advisor.

Applicant Name:

Name of Advisor:

Advisor Phone Number:

Advisor E-mail:

1. How long have you known the applicant?

2. What leadership traits has the applicant demonstrated in the fish, wildlife or biodiversity conservation-related sciences? Do you see future potential in this applicant with regard to participation in professional organizations, such as OFWIM?

Faculty Advisor signature:

Date: