

TORTOISE RESEARCH & CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP

The Herpetology Program at Archbold Biological Station is seeking a Tortoise Research &



Conservation Intern to support an exciting project funded by Disney Conservation Fund. The successful candidate will play a key role in continuation of a 55-year mark-recapture study of Gopher Tortoises and contribute to current studies of juvenile tortoise ecology (i.e., habitat- and age-specific growth and movement behaviors, including responses to fire). The intern will be supervised by Dr. Betsie Rothermel, Archbold Herpetology & Restoration Ecology Program Director. The duration of the internship is approximately 8 months, with a desired start date of **July 11, 2022**.

Varied duties will include (50% of time):

- Capture, measure, tag, and track juvenile and adult tortoises
- Survey and map tortoise burrows using GPS
- Manage and perform QAQC on tortoise capture and tracking data
- Summarize and conduct exploratory data analysis of tortoise tracking data for dissemination and outreach
- Assist with sandhill restoration efforts (e.g., removal of invasive plants, occasional prescribed fires) in the tortoise study area
- Assist with biweekly hydrological monitoring of wetlands

Independent project (remaining 50% of time): With input and guidance from the project PI, design and conduct an original research project focused on some aspect of Gopher Tortoise ecology

Desired qualifications

- Minimum B.S. degree with at least 6 months of relevant experience
- Field research experience, preferably with reptiles
- Meticulous attention to data collection and management protocols
- Strong interest and aptitude in working with large data sets
- Some familiarity with R or other coding languages
- Demonstrated experience implementing a GIS project
- Enthusiasm for engaging in virtual outreach and communicating project results to the public
- Capable of doing physically demanding work in the hot, humid subtropical climate of southern Florida

Benefits to an Archbold internship

- Weekly stipend of \$185 – \$210 depending on qualifications (B.S. or M.S.)

- An additional \$60 per week stipend while the Station's dining room is closed (due to Covid-19). If our kitchen facilities reopen, we will provide breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday.
- Free lodging at the Station (shared housing, no pets)
- Close interaction with Principal Investigator and Research Assistants who will provide mentoring and professional development
- Development of critical skills that will strengthen your future graduate school or job applications, including building proficiency in data management, field research, and science communication
- Cross-disciplinary learning opportunities through formal orientation sessions and research seminars, as well as informal interactions with researchers and interns in the Avian Ecology, Plant Ecology, Agro-ecology, and Education programs
- Opportunity to live and work at a world-renowned field station embedded in the Florida scrub ecosystem, a North American biodiversity hotspot
- Opportunities to explore other Florida ecosystems and natural areas during your free time

How to apply

- Applicants must have U.S. citizenship or current authorization to work in the U.S.
- Email the following (preferably as one attachment in PDF format) to Dr. Betsie Rothermel (brothermel@archbold-station.org), including 'Intern position' in subject line:
 - 1) Cover letter describing your qualifications and indicating your availability
 - 2) Current resumé or CV, including GPA and a list of relevant coursework
 - 3) Contact information for three references



Deadline to apply is **May 30th**

Visit our website for more information:
<http://www.archbold-station.org/>

Archbold is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from members of underrepresented groups