Volunteer Research Assistants Needed
Gain experience in the field this summer while studying big cats in Africa!

As a participant in this project, you will spend two weeks in the world famous Kruger game park collecting data on big cats, observing their behavior, and filming and photographing these incredible predators in their natural habitat. This opportunity is open to those who would like to gain hands-on experience in field work, animal behavior research, and conservation photography / videography while working in a small group setting.

Kruger Park is one of the largest game reserves in Africa and is well known for its abundant wildlife, providing the perfect environment for researching big cats such as lions, leopards, and cheetahs. During last year’s research I learned so much about research in the field, African wildlife, and myself in just two weeks. The worst part of the trip was getting on the plane to go home.

- Megan, 2013 Participant

I would strongly recommend this trip to anyone who is interested in wildlife and traveling. I learned a lot about the big cats of South Africa, as well as numerous other animals, and I learned a lot about myself, which made this experience truly memorable.

– Jen, 2011 participant

[This] trip invigorated me in a way that I’d never expected, and it’s helped me keep my passion alive. Because of this trip, I’ve realized just how much I love field work, and actually getting out there and experiencing the world.

– Frederick, 2010 participant
program, students collected data on over 200 lions, leopards, and cheetahs! Participants of the Big Cat Research Project will be in the field everyday, gathering data from a 4x4 research safari vehicle, as well as at observation hides located at water holes. You will be collecting data on distribution patterns, prey availability, and behavior of each cat, as well as filming and photographing these predators. Participants will also engage in hands-on activities such as photo and video identification of individuals using facial “mug shots”, as well as comparing spot patterns, ear tears and scarring. Other skills include learning and utilizing animal tracking techniques. The information gathered is added to an ongoing database / photo identification catalog and census focusing on animal distribution, hunting patterns and success rates, as well as tracking tuberculoses and anthrax infections within the study area. In addition to the research component, you will have the opportunity to observe a wide variety of animals such as elephants, rhinos, zebras, giraffes, and a myriad of other species!

**Dates for Summer of 2015:**

June 2\(^{nd}\) – 16\(^{th}\)  
June 17\(^{th}\) – July 1\(^{st}\)  
July 2\(^{nd}\) – 16\(^{th}\)

During this research safari, you will be working with Colin Garland; big cat specialist, wildlife photographer/film maker, and guest speaker at Binghamton University, SUNY ESF, and other universities in India, Africa, and Central America. The safari is being conducted by Raven Adventures, the sister organization of the award-winning non-profit The Global Classroom. Raven Adventures and The Global Classroom focus on hands-on conservation, community outreach, and environmental education around the globe. Raven Adventures / The Global Classroom were founded in 1986 by Colin Garland, who has been studying cats and other predators in South Africa for over 15 years.
Cost:
Raven Adventures strives to offer low-cost high-quality programs and opportunities. The Big Cat Research Project is specially priced for students at $3,995 and includes roundtrip airfare from JFK, in country food, lodging, tents, and transportation in South Africa. In recent years, Kruger Park began collecting a mandatory daily conservation fee that must be paid by each person at the entrance to the park. The cost per person is $290 and we ask that you bring this amount with you in US dollars.

How to Enroll:
Each trip is available to 6 participants only. Before enrolling please contact Colin Garland at 978-724-3530 or at colin@ravenadventures.com to ensure availability. After you have confirmed the trip dates you wish to join us, please send us your completed questionnaire and non-refundable $600 deposit check. A copy of the questionnaire can be found on our website at www.ravenadventures.com/big-cat-project/

Make the deposit check out to “Raven Adventures” and send it to Colin Garland/Raven Adventures, 360 Patten Hill, Shelburne, MA 01370, or pay by credit card using our convenient PayPal link located on our website. Due to the popularity of this program, and to be fair to everyone, enrollments are on a first come first serve basis. These programs fill many months in advance so early registration is advised.

Contact Us:
Colin Garland
Program Director
colin@ravenadventures.com
978-724-3530

For more information, please visit....

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