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Media Contact: Mark Mandica, Executive Director (mark@amphibianfound.org)

Program Contact: Dr. Tobias Landberg, Director of Research (tobias@amphibianfoundation.org)

Expanding the Field of Conservation Research: The Amphibian Foundation Launches New Adult Educational Program

AF provides rare opportunity to explore a career in conservation research outside of the classroom.

Atlanta -- The Amphibian Foundation (AF) is launching the Bridge Program for Conservation Research (Bridge Program), a unique educational program for adults interested in exploring conservation research as a career outside of the traditional college setting. Registration is open, and, beginning in January 2020, AF's scientific experts will mentor participants through lab and field projects at the globally-recognized non-profit based in Atlanta. All research projects will contribute to the conservation of threatened and endangered amphibians.

Amphibians are disappearing at a rapid rate. Nearly half (43 percent) of the world's amphibians are in catastrophic decline or already extinct, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Working to protect endangered and imperiled amphibians, AF leads one-of-a-kind conservation research programs to address major threats amphibians are facing across the world. Participants will gain unique skills in the non-profit world, train in biological research, and help address the conservation of endangered species.

"There are many young people who are not sure what to pursue academically after high school," said Tobias Landberg, PhD, AF's Director of Research. "Or, after graduating college, some people realize that they studied a topic that is not fulfilling their needs or goals. We designed this program for them."

The program offers two tracks based on participant availability and interests. The one-semester program involves rotations in common biological research topics, including restoration conservation, urban ecology, animal husbandry, and more. The one-year program begins with the rotation, followed by designing and implementing a project with mentorship. AF experts will work closely with participants in both programs to achieve personal, academic, and career goals.

Similar to a “gap year,” the program is available to people before, during, or after college. Graduates will leave understanding how to harness their passion for preserving wildlife and take the next professional steps.

Established in 2016, AF collaborates with partners to address the global amphibian extinction crisis. AF staff have, for example, released captive reared Gopher Frogs (*Lithobates capito*, Georgia’s rarest frog) into protected habitat for more than 10 years. Visit AF’s website for program details:

bridge.amphibianfoundation.org.

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The Amphibian Foundation is dedicated to connecting individuals, communities, and organizations in order to create and implement lasting solutions to the global amphibian extinction crisis.