

Fallen Heroes Scholar

Rachel Hardison

Charlottesville, VA

University of Virginia

Year: Sophomore

Major: Biology

Activities:

- ❖ Red Cross Club
- ❖ First Responders Club, Chair of Events
- ❖ Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire Department
- ❖ Summer Employment: Biology Department, Research Assistant
- ❖ Year-Round Employment: Biology Department Teaching Assistant



Receiving the Wings Over America scholarship has given me the opportunity to take on additional educational challenges and to continue volunteering in the work that I love. In addition to my ongoing molecular evolution research, this past year I held a Teaching Assistant position for an elective biology course. In this class I stressed the importance of scientific literacy in all professions, particularly law, and in the process gained a better understanding of the material myself. I will be taking a course at the Mountain Lake Biological Institute studying local animal species with the goal of publishing research. I have continued to volunteer as a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician in my county. In this work, I provide emergency medical care and respond to fire emergencies in order to help keep my community safe. I am grateful to the Wings Over America community for giving me the opportunity to pursue my passion for biology research and community service.