

The garter snake can be found throughout the Chesapeake Bay region, and is even the state snake of Virginia!



Eastern Garter Snake

Thamnophis sirtalis

Common Names: garter snake, garden snake

Size: 1.5-2 feet. The longest recorded was just over 4 feet. **Lifespan:** 3-4 years

Habitat: Able to withstand almost any type of habitat from marshes and forests to back yards, farms, and drainage ditches. They are highly adaptable and great hunters.

Range: Found throughout the eastern United States and most of North America.

Diet: Eats small animals including earthworms, millipedes, spiders, small fish, salamanders, frogs, insects, and toads.

Appearance: Adult garter snakes have black, dark brown, or olive green backs with a distinct white or cream-colored stripe running down the back. Some individuals may be all black with no visible stripe. The darker area surrounding this stripe often has a checkerboard-like pattern with darker flecks.

Predators: Garter snakes are preyed on by hawks, skunks, raccoons, larger snakes, and even bullfrogs!

What can you do? Snakes are a super important part of an ecosystem: they are the pest controllers! Therefore, if you see a snake out in the wild, take a few pictures if you'd like, but don't bother them and let them get on their way.

On-Line Resources

https://www.virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com/reptiles/snakes/eastern-gartersnake/eastern_gartersnake.php

<https://srelherp.uga.edu/snakes/thasir.htm>

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/field-guide/entry/eastern_garter_snake



www.elizabethriver.org