

2026 MERCY SHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

2026 Scholarship Application for Paid Missions to Volunteer Aboard Mercy Ships



The HSPA Foundation will provide two scholarships for a CRCST certification holder and active member of HSPA to volunteer aboard Mercy Ships on a medical mission as an Operating Room Sterile Processing Technician. These individuals will be responsible for inspecting all instruments for cleanliness, proper function and breakage; assembling and wrapping trays, supplies and single-pack instruments for sterilization; operating autoclaves safely and correctly; maintaining a clean work environment; and demonstrating clear communication and documentation skills.

The missions will be aboard the Africa Mercy vessel in Madagascar from September 27 to November 7, 2026 and the Global Mercy in Ghana from October 11 to November 21, 2026. Each scholarship will provide up to \$10,000 to cover room, board, travel and other expenses as well as help offset the volunteer's salary during the mission.

To apply, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a current member of HSPA in good standing **and** hold the CRCST certification.
2. Answer **YES** to each of these screening questions:
 - Applicant received prior approval from their employer.
 - Applicant understands their organization's leave of absence (LOA) policy.
 - Applicant read and understands all of Mercy Ships' requirements to participate in the mission.

Applications must include:

1. Completed application form (see page 2)
2. An essay demonstrating your commitment to the healthcare field and how your experience would benefit Mercy Ships' mission. The essay should explain how you envision contributing to the volunteer mission and how such contributions would enhance the volunteer position as a whole. *Essay must be typewritten, with **at least 350 words and no more than 500 words.***
3. Letter of recommendation from your employer in support of your participation in the mission. The letter should outline attributes that would make you a good candidate for the OR Sterile Processing Technician volunteer position.

Scholarship recipients will be announced in HSPA publications and on the HSPA website.

Note: The HSPA Foundation reserves the right not to award a scholarship for a particular year if the evaluations performed indicate that nominations do not meet the stated criteria or scholarship program standards.

Please email your completed application, letter of recommendation and essay to: foundation@myhspa.org.

For questions or further assistance, contact HSPA at 312.440.0078 or foundation@myhspa.org.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

June 19, 2026, 11:59 p.m. – Application submission deadline

June 22–26, 2026 – Candidate reviews and interviews

Mid-July – Candidates selected

September 27 to November 7, 2026 – Africa Mercy, Madagascar mission trip

October 11 to November 21, 2026 – Global Mercy, Ghana mission trip



SECTION 1 — APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant First Name: _____ Applicant Last Name: _____

HSPA ID#: _____

Do you hold any certifications? *Note: Applicants MUST hold the CRCST to be considered for this Mercy Ships volunteer position.*

Years of service in Sterile Processing: _____

Have you received a scholarship from HSPA previously? If yes, please list the scholarship details: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Home Address: _____ Apt/Floor/Unit: _____

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Preferred Email: _____

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Organization: _____

Current Position Title: _____

I am applying for the Africa Mercy mission in Madagascar, September 27 to November 7, 2026.

I am applying for the Global Mercy mission in Ghana, October 11 to November 21, 2026.

I am applying for either the Africa Mercy mission OR the Global Mercy mission.

SECTION 2 — LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

All submissions must include a letter of recommendation from your employer that outlines the attributes that would make you a good candidate for the scholarship.

SECTION 3 — ESSAY

Please attach an essay demonstrating your commitment to the healthcare field and how your experience would benefit the Mercy Ships mission. *Essays must be typewritten, with a **minimum word count of 350 and a maximum word count of 500.***

APPLICATION CRITERIA & CHECKLIST

Section 1: Status

I am a current member of of HSPA and hold the CRCST certification.

Note: Please verify your membership status at myaccount.myhspa.org to ensure that you are a member and not solely a certification holder.

Section 2: Employer Approval and Leave of Absence

I have received approval from my employer and understand my employer's leave of absence policy.

Section 3: Applicant Information

I have completed the application form and included my email for updates.

Section 4: Letter of Recommendation

Section 5: Essay

I have attached my essay with the application.