



Elmer's Glue Crew Brigade® Spotlight Location

Rachel Rougeau, St. Margaret Catholic School

Lake Charles, LA



**Number of People
Collecting:**
60



**Units
Collected:**
921 pieces of waste



**Points
Earned:**
3,722



Tell us more about yourself and your collection location.

My name is Rachel Rougeau, I am completing my fifth year as an art teacher at St. Margaret Catholic School in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and I teach Pre-K through 8th grade art on a daily basis to about 260 students. A few years back I started our school's first TerraCycle program, which grew to include collecting juice pouches, chip bags, and plastic home storage baggies (at the time). I had our school as a participating Glue Crew school for years and subsequently signed up through TerraCycle to start collecting Glue Crew items, along with our other TerraCycle waste items. St. Margaret's Art Club, art students, and Science Club all pitch in to collect, clean, bag, and ship off all items we send to TerraCycle.

Tell us why you participate in the Elmer's Glue Crew Brigade, and how you involve other people.

We participate in the Elmer's Glue Crew Brigade because it makes sense- I had already been an active member of activities through the Glue Crew and once they teamed up with TerraCycle, it just made sense to join in and send our empty glue bottles and sticks, which get emptied quite quickly in the art room. I get information out to the school, parents, students, and teachers about our upcycling program through our weekly school-wide e-newsletter and updating info on my school website. The Glue Crew upcycle box is located in a convenient, central location that all students can use and find- the art room! We have a tally sheet kept next to the Glue Crew upcycle box that all students can see and keep track of how many bottles/sticks they have contributed to the box, which keeps them motivated to keep bringing in used bottles and sticks. We also are about to start our school-wide Annual Spring Cleaning Contest of which the class that can bring in the most recyclable Elmer's products will win a class prize party for their entire class.

Tell us how you like to spend your points.

All of our points go toward St. Margaret Catholic School and back into our recycling program in some way. In the past, checks sent to us have gone towards purchasing new and much

needed recycling bins in our school cafeteria, specifically for our TerraCycling waste that are larger, cleaner, and more economical than the bins we had in the past. We also were able to help purchase newer and larger recycle bins to house aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and other items to be recycled around our school campus and the purchase of new recycle bins for every classroom in the school. Each room now has an eco-friendly, sturdy, compact recycle bin to store recyclables. We have also redeemed points to adopt wildlife land, reduce carbon from the atmosphere, give clean water to people in need, and most recently, we donated points to help with the Sandy Hook relief efforts.



Tell us a story about your most exciting, memorable, or inspiring moment in collecting for the Elmer's Glue Crew Brigade.

One memorable, exciting, and inspiring moment of being a part of Glue Crew and knowing that others have heard about our collection process happened last year at a local Science Expo. Our students went to the annual event and learned about science and saw science experiments, which used Elmer's School Glue in one of their experiments. At the end of the fair, local event coordinators were going to throw all of the glue bottles away (empty or full), until my school's science teacher and other members of our St. Margaret family found out! Knowing that we collect glue bottles, they collected and took all of the glue bottles (even if they were in the trash already lol) and brought them to me, where I had my art students in each of my classes pour glue and consolidate glue and bottles. All of the empty bottles were cleaned out and sent off to Glue Crew through TerraCycle and all of the full bottles were stored or put to good use in our Art Room. I never knew how happy I could be receive so much free glue to help in my art room and be able to give any amount of glue needed to any student or teacher in need, especially knowing it was about to all go to waste!