



# Gang Awareness And Intervention Network

## Parent and Community Awareness Strategies What Parents Frequently Ask Gangs

1. **Wanna-be's are Gonna-be's.** These are youngsters who are getting close to deciding to join a gang; often they are imitating a lifestyle they have seen on television or in the movies . Fake or wannabe gangs will be taken over by real gangs .
2. **Associates.** These young people are not officially members of the gang but they act, walk, talk, and hang or associate with the gang and often become involved in some of its activities. If I am a rival gang member I will treat an associate just like he is my enemy and an associate does not have the back up of the gang. They are often called riders.
3. **Regular Members.** They are already initiated in to the gang. These regular members tend to back up the hard-core gang members. They will follow orders but are usually there for the camaraderie. They are more likely to be the victims of violent acts..
4. **Hard-Core.** These are the gang bangers only 12-15 % of the gang is actually putting in work. These are the violent hard core members . It has nothing to do with age or how long you have been in the gang. There are 15year old bangers in my town who are more dangerous and out of control than 20-25yrs olds who have been incarcerated..
  - *Gangs, guns, drugs and violence are like the four horsemen the ride together*

## Graffiti

. Graffiti is the newspaper of the streets. Each gang has its unique symbols and cryptic types of Gang. Graffiti is usually not artistic but it is a form of communications that publicizes the gang's power, status, territory, beefs, and often sends to friends and foe. Graffiti upside down or crossed out is a form of disrespect. The are four basic types of GANG graffiti Hit ups, Roll calls, Rest n Peace, and Cross outs . Remember the four Rs **Read It! Record It! Report It! And Remove It!**

**Gang Colors** Colors refer to a gang member representing their Gang, by wearing a specific gang logo, colors, clothing, or specific brand name of clothing or clothing worn in a predefined manner. This may also include hairstyles, jewelry, even the way a person stands or ties their shoelaces. Colors are only seen if the Gang member wants you to see them. Other wise all gang members can wear any color. They can false Flag. Bloods wear Blue and crips can wear red. We have attempted to enforce protocol on gangs and they have rejected it. Don't get caught up on colors. Beads actually tell you more than color of clothing.

Ie, BULLS Bloods Usually Live Longer Suckers—Crips Bloods usually live like slobs .

**Gang signs** Hands sign and gang codes are a means of communication. Symbols formed and flashed with the fingers, hands, and body have specific meaning. There are thousands of gang Codes. Many codes are consistent in meaning but there are always new codes and terminology on the



horizon. I have witnessed headlines in newspapers., “Gang loses secret code book” this is nothing but sensationalism .Think about it. What is the first thing you would do if you were to lose your codebook? Change your codes.

## **How do you deal with gang members? Respect**

- Be respectful and be fair. Gang members want the same things in life everyone else desires No one grows up wanting to live in fear of being under attack, unable to walk to the corner store
- Listen to what they have to say. You may be surprised stop using the word they and start using the word we. Only then will you find common ground.
- The disparities in our society has given birth and rise to most of our gangs, check their history.
- Media attention creates competition among gangs every one wants to be number one or the baddest.
- It is bad news to negotiate with terrorist so don't do it with gangs or their members` , all it does is gives them more recognition and power.

### **•What are some pre-gang behaviors?**

Gang involvement does not happen overnight. It is a gradual process and if you are alert you will see the signs.

- Poor progress or achievement in school. MYTH I know gang members ,who are excellent students. Gangs are now looking to recruit good students and good athletes. The truth is second class educations build first class jails. Poor school systems give rise to gang activities. They help the bacteria grow.
- Lack of hobbies or too much leisure time / Use time constructively an idle mind is the devils playground
- Frequent contact with authority figures or police / police often inappropriately label young people as gang members. Police are not gang experts and often have no more than a basic introduction to gangs taught in the police academy.
- Draws gang insignia/symbols educate yourself and you children so they recognize symbols when they see them.
- Problems at home/ every one has problems. Keep an open line of communication, remember Listen!
- Lives in neighborhood where gang exist / Gang exist every where. From the hood to the neighborhood



- Friends, parents, relatives are gang members/The apple usually doesn't fall far from the tree. Some of the best interventionist are ex offenders and ex gang members. Learn from the mistakes of others.

## **What can parents do?**

- Know your children's friends.
- influence your kids, positively.
- you can not know what your children are doing at all times, but you should be involved with them and help occupy their time.
- Strive for good communication between you and your children.
- Do not allow gang attire.
- Do not allow hanging out in the streets .
- Be very suspicious of gang writing, graffiti, or tattoos.
- Encourage anti-gang attitudes at home.
- Learn about gangs
- Participate in your child's education; find out what's happening at school.
- Get involved in community affairs.
- You be the example

## **What are some parental strategies to combat gangs?**

- More supervised recreational and leisure activities for youngsters.
- Increase parental supervision of children, their activities, and their friends.
- Collaborative efforts between positive community based organizations.

## **Recreation alone is not the key to curbing gang activity**

- My gang kids get enough recreation running from the cops. The activities must be supervised. We must have mentors and positive role models present. Always try to have workshops and positive discussion groups.