



DAYTONA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

RECOGNIZING SIGNS OF GANG ACTIVITY

*For Parents, Teachers and Citizens
Of the City of Daytona Beach*



Working Together to Help Our Youth and Our Community

Important Information

- *What is a gang?*
- *Why do kids join a gang?*
- *Signs of Gang Activity*
- *Gangs and Criminal Activities*
- *What You Can Do*

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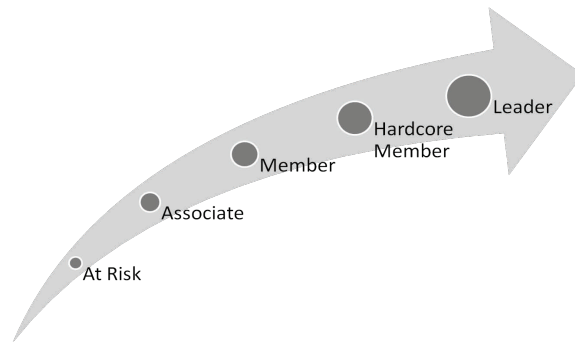
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*5 Primary Steps of Gang Involvement by Matthew O’Deane, Ph. D.
Lowest to Highest Level of Involvement*

TO REPORT GANG ACTIVITY CALL (386) 671-5100

GANG BASICS

♦ *What is a gang?*

According to Florida Statute 874.03 a “Criminal gang is a formal or informal ongoing organization, association or group that has as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal or delinquent acts and that consists of three or more persons who have a common name or common identifying signs, colors or symbols, including but not limited to terrorist organizations and hate groups. “

♦ *When do kids join a gang?*

Gang members can be as young as 8 years old and as old as 40 years of age. **The most common ages are between ages 14 to 25 years old.** Kids are regularly being recruited in school, malls, any place kids gather and even on the Internet. Kids who are easily talked into doing things for the gang are targeted. Gangs recruit kids from all races, sexes and all economic backgrounds.

♦ *Why do kids join a gang?*

Kids can be drawn to gangs for many reasons. The most common reasons are: to gain **acceptance** (to be part of the gang “family”), **peer pressure** as their friends are in the gang, **excitement** at the thrill of committing illegal acts, **protection** from others that would do them harm, **to earn money** through the illegal activities in which they participate, and to **socialize** at the parties that the gangs regularly host.



JOINING A GANG

Gang Initiation

Some Types of Initiations

To join the gang, a recruit must prove their worthiness. To do this, most gangs require they participate in violent and/or illegal activities defined by the gang as worthy of admittance into the gang.



◆ *Rolled or Jumped In*

New recruits can be required to fight 3 or more gang members for a specified length of time. This beating shows the gang how tough the new member is and if they are a strong fighter. Being “Lined in” is a similar activity where recruits are forced to go between 2 lines of gang members while being beat. If an adolescent is beaten and is unwilling to report the crime, it can be an indicator of gang involvement.

◆ *Commit Crimes*

New recruits can be required to commit crimes as part of their initiation. These crimes are usually related to crimes the gang is known to participate. Serious crimes such as auto theft, robbery, aggravated battery and even homicide can be required. Sometimes these crimes have a point value. When the recruit has participated in enough crimes to gain enough points, they can become a member.

◆ *Sexed In*

New recruits (mostly female) are required to engage in sexual activities with multiple gang members.

◆ *Courted*

New recruits are required to share their knowledge, resources, skills or connections that can benefit the gang in some way.

SIGNS OF GANG PARTICIPATION

Be Alert for Several of These Signs Which Combined Are Indicators of Gang Participation

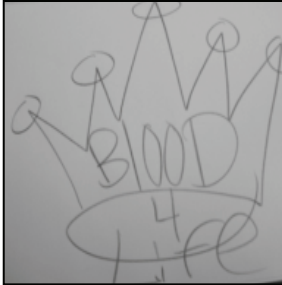
- ◆ *Withdrawal from family.*
- ◆ *Excessive and regular disobedience of parents.*
- ◆ *Lowering of school grades & trouble at school*
- ◆ *Loss of interest in activities or hobbies*
- ◆ *Possible use of alcohol and/or drugs*
- ◆ *Unusual desire for more privacy and secrecy*
- ◆ *Friends with unusual nicknames (and they do not share their real names)*
- ◆ *Hanging out with obvious gang members*
- ◆ *Regular negative contact with parents, teachers, and the police.*
- ◆ *Draws gang symbols and/or makes hand signs*
- ◆ *Carries Weapons*
- ◆ *Has Gang Tattoos*
- ◆ *Exclusively wears clothing in certain colors*
- ◆ *Unexplained large sums of money*
- ◆ *Admits to gang membership*

It is normal during adolescence for kids rebel against authority. However, if this behavior is continual and becomes progressively worse, it is a clear indicator that there is a greater problem.

As a parent, teacher or other responsible adult, these problems should be addressed immediately. Denial and hoping that things will change, will only make the situation worse.

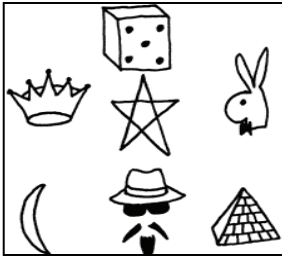
IDENTIFIED STREET GANGS

Peoples Nation Affiliates



Bloods

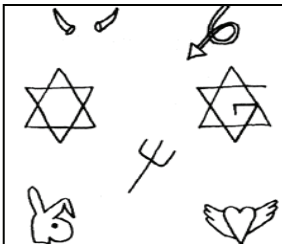
Founded: 1972
Territory: Nationwide
Color: Red
Criminal Activities: Murder, Drug trafficking, Robbery and Extortion
Rivals: Folk Nation, Crips



Latin Kings

Founded: 1940
Territory: Nationwide
Color: Gold and Black
Criminal Activities: Racketeering Murder, Drug Trafficking, Robbery, Identity Theft and Extortion

FOLKS Nation Affiliates (founded 1979 Illinois State Prison)
Folk stands for "Follow Our Loving King Satan"



Crips

Founded: 1969
Territory: Nationwide
Color: Blue
Criminal Activities: Murder, Drug trafficking, Robbery and Extortion

No Affiliates



Surenos (no affiliation)

Founded: 1950
Territory: Nationwide, Mexico
Color: Blue
Criminal Activities: Murder, Drug trafficking, Robbery and Extortion

Gang Clothing

Gang Clothing is meant to identify members of the gang and intimidate those not in the gang. Examples:

- ◆ Colored shoe strings
- ◆ Colored bandanas (rags)
- ◆ Colored Beads, jewelry
- ◆ Custom T shirts, baseball hats

Codes to Communicate

Hand signals and secret written codes (common in graffiti) are used for communications between members and other gangs. Crossed out letters are a sign of disrespect.



Gang Tattoos

Tattoos can be any combination of letters (acronyms) and pictures showing symbols of their gang which are tattooed or burned into the skin.



Gang Weapons

Shotguns, handguns, knives, brass knuckles, bats, explosives, are all weapons stolen, traded and used by gang members.



Gang Slang

Gangs use expressions and acronyms to communicate. Examples include:

- \$ - Power and money
- MOB—Member of Blood
- SMM—Sex, Money, Murder
- BK—Blood Killer
- OG—Original Gangster

Gang Crime

Gangs participate in many crimes for monetary profit. Drug Trafficking, Armed Robbery, and Auto Theft are all crimes of profit. Violent Criminal Activities such as murder (drive by shootings), sexual assaults, and aggravated assaults also occur much more often in gangs.

Warning Signs of Imminent Gang Violence

- ◆ Clustering of rival gangs
- ◆ Crossing out of gang graffiti
- ◆ Violent incidents in the neighborhood
- ◆ Sudden change in dress
- ◆ Large number of kids from a different neighborhood

Local Gang Names

- ◆ 819 BOYZ
- ◆ Black Gangster Disciples
- ◆ Salt Boyz
- ◆ Savage Squad
- ◆ Skinheads
- ◆ Southside
- ◆ Vice Lords

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ Do not allow adolescents to dress like gang members
- ◆ Spend more quality time with the adolescent
- ◆ Talk to them about gangs & discourage participation
- ◆ Teach the adolescent to make good choices
- ◆ Use your actions to set a good example (be a positive role model)
- ◆ Praise them for doing well
- ◆ Explain the importance of education
- ◆ Be a good observer
- ◆ Get to know all of their friends by name
- ◆ Be sure to get the real facts
- ◆ Have rules and have consequences if they are broken
- ◆ Be consistent about enforcing the rules
- ◆ Keep in touch with other parents
- ◆ Report gang activity and crime immediately

Your actions could save a life!

To report gang activity call (386) 671-5100

To report gang activity or information about a crime anonymously text "CRIMES" (274637) with a cell phone or log on to www.dbpd.us and click on Report A Crime. When using a cell phone, all messages should begin with "DBTIPS." Tipsters remain anonymous.

DAYTONA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT



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