

WHAT PARENTS AND TEACHERS CAN DO

- Encourage good study habits
- Improve communication (listen)
- Set a good example
- Help develop the child's self-esteem
- Set boundaries and limits
- Be involved in school
- Watch closely for negative influences
- Monitor what the child hears and sees
- Search child's room and school material
- Supervise the child's activities
- Provide protection/sense of belonging

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office VIOLENT CRIMES DIVISION

Contact Information:

Gang Unit
688-4090

CrimeStoppers
1-800 458-TIPS (8477)

If you want to learn more about gangs,
please visit the following websites:

www.fgia.com
www.nationalgangcenter.gov
www.nagia.org



CRIME STOPPERS
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
3228 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
www.pbso.org

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Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office VIOLENT CRIMES DIVISION



Guide to Gang Recognition for Parents and Teachers

Say "NO" to Youth Gang Violence

It will take a combined effort of everyone in the community to accomplish this task. You can assist law enforcement by taking an active role in your community and report any suspicious behavior, suspicious individuals and graffiti to your local law enforcement agency.

**GANGS ARE NOT JUST A
POLICE PROBLEM, THEY ARE
A COMMUNITY PROBLEM!**

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FACTS ABOUT GANGS

Gangs have been a part of our culture for hundreds of years. However, while gang activity in earlier years was limited to the delinquent behavior of a neighborhood cliques, recent gang activity has taken on a different character. Today, gangs engage in high stakes narcotics and weapons trafficking, robberies, and other equally serious and violent crimes.

Gangs are usually formed according to ethnic or racial guidelines, although there seems to be a current trend to form gangs for economic reasons. The latest statistics provided by the National Youth Gang Center reveal that there are over 33,000 gangs nationwide with a total membership of over 1,400,000.

Gangs thrive on intimidation and notoriety. They often find violence glamorous and a necessity in order to maintain individual and gang status.

Gang membership extracts a terrible toll from the lives of all that are in contact with the member. Families of gang members must be concerned for their own safety.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE JOIN GANGS?

People join gangs for a variety of reasons, some of which are the same reasons people join social groups.

- Search for love, structure, and discipline
- Sense of belonging and commitment
- Need for recognition and power
- Companionship, training, excitement, and activities
- Sense of self worth and status
- Place of acceptance
- Family tradition
- Need for physical safety and protection
- Immediate gratification: money and prestige
- Poor academic achievement and the disbelief that success can be achieved by committing oneself to school and a job
- Poverty
- Racism
- Media influence

HOW TO RECOGNIZE GANG MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION

- Admits to gang involvement
- Uses a particular color and/or logo
- Particular haircut style
- Wears jewelry with distinctive designs and may wear it on the right or left side of the body
- Desire for privacy and secrecy
- Change in the normal language pattern
- Hand signs to communicate with other youths
- Possession of large amounts of money and/or materials
- Breaking curfew
- Never home
- New friends
- Failing school grades
- Disobeys or challenges authority figures
- Peculiar drawings or language on school material
- Has a tattoo used by gang members