What’s the 411 on Gangs

Dwight Stewart

“What Is A Gang”?

“Criminal Street Gang”

Three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

Gang Slang

- Smokers rental car
- Step on it-
- Flossing-
- Get Murked-
- Walk the line-
- Transfer the keys-
- In the Hat-
- Blackout-
- Blood drop-
- Gangster style
Gang Slang

- Best Friend
- Black Flag
- Drop your flag
- Bumper kit
- Chow Hall
- Casket
- Codes
- Jellyfish

Gang Slang

- Blue Boy - Crip
- C-Queen
- Library - Crip
- Lid-Crip
- Lip - Crip
- Hit a Lick
- Line Backer - Crips
- Shadow-Crips

Gang Characteristics

Proud- **Always walk with a sense of pride**
Tradition- **Love to listen to war stories**
Aggressive- **Any means necessary**
Commitment- **Little kids learning gang life**
Honor- **Respect war stories and scars**
Organization- Conducts meeting/holds court (Order of business/ game plans/ meetings, BBQ’s and church)
Code of Silence and respect- **respect elders**
Territorial- Claim parts of school (restrooms)
Types of Punishment

Bloods- 50 to the chest
MS 13- S with lines for snitching
GD’s- PHD pumpkin head deluxe
LK’s- slow burn
Bloods- a buck 50- 150 stitches
Drug Cartels- making stew
Why Have a Female in the Gang

- Relays messages for the gang
- Can gather gang intelligence
- Set up rivals
- Acts an accomplice in gang crimes
- Not likely to be searched by police
- Myth “girls do not gang bang”
- Can easily influence her to carry out gang violence
- Hide and carry weapon
- Attracts new recruits
Gang Recruitment Techniques

Seduction – creating glorified myths about the gang (promise of money, sex, and glamour)

Obligation – recruiters will do a favor for a prospective gang member, but expect something in return

Coercion – forced recruitment

Self-recruitment or Generational

Internet – Recruitment and warnings
Gang Initiation

- Rolled in
- Courted in
- Walked in
- Sexed in
- Commit Crimes
BLOODS

- Founded: 1969
- Location: Centennial High School, Los Angeles, CA
- Established in response to the formation of the Crips
- Now located: Nation wide
Bloods

O31-I have only love for you

United Blood Nation- East Coast
Dog Paws or Triple O's
If it doesn’t make sense, QUESTION IT!

- Pacifiers
- Baggy, sagged pants
- Shaved eyebrows
- Pant legs or sleeves rolled up
- Tear drops on face
- Turned caps
- Out of place sports teams clothing
- Colored rubber bands on wrists
- Hand signs
- Unusual hand shakes
- Colored shoe laces in one shoe only
- S with lines stand for snitch
- Position of arms- crossed to left or right

Image Source: Dwight Stewart/TXSSC

PEOPLE NATION

Image Source: Dwight Stewart/TXSSC

Image Source: Chief Garcia/Brownsville ISD Police Dept.
Use of Christian Symbols

- Image of “la Virgin de Guadalupe”
- Patron Saints of the Mexican Drug underworld: Santa Muerte
- Red - Love Ritual
- White - Good Luck
- Black - Protection
- Rosaries around the neck

Some people call it “saint death” drug dealer and gangs pray to Santa Muerte

Image Source: Dinicio Cortez/Hidalgo County Sheriff

Mexican Mafia

Aryan Brotherhood
100% Wood

Texas Syndicate

Gulf Cartel

ZETAS

Image Source: Dinicio Cortez/Hidalgo County Sheriff
Graffiti

- Graffiti is often referred to as the newspaper of the street. This is because a lot can be learned about the gang from their graffiti. Graffiti names the gang, members, territory, and it’s a warning to rival gangs.
Tattoo/ Patch Identification
San Antonio

Image Source: District Cortez/Hidalgo Co. Sheriff

Texas School Safety Center   www.txssc.txstate.edu
What can be done?

Provide outside resources - GED, social skills etc.
Behavior Contracts - Hays County
District wide school safety model - community engagement, enforcement, and student code of conduct - Dallas County - OJJDP Model
Community Initiative - community involvement

Pre-Crisis Indicators - Violent Confrontation
Gathering of rival gangs
Movement of groups not common in your neighborhood
Reports of fights on school property
Crossing out of gang graffiti
Violent incidents reported in neighborhood
Sudden change in dress - flying colors

What Can Schools Do?
Teach a violence-prevention curriculum
Listen to your students
Provide a hotline to report violence
Provide positive student activities
Build communication with teachers, staff, students, parents and community
Clean up graffiti
Work in conjunction with police
What Can Parents Do?

Know your children’s friends
Set curfews and know where your children are going
Set limits and enforce them
Be aware of changes
Spend quality time
Put high value on education
Provide your family with family structure that builds unity

What Can Kids Do

Be sure about what you want to do
If you decide to leave, stick with it
Get support from family and neighbors
Change your lifestyle
Consider a more spiritual lifestyle
Consider your location

What Consistency is Needed?

Consistent, fair rules
Parents, students, community, and schools all working with the same goal in mind
Communication
Proactive, positive steps in:
  Community service projects
  Intergenerational activities
  Anger management groups
  Peer mediation
What Consequence is Needed?

- Natural accountability
- All rules and laws enforced
- Consistency in enforcing rules and laws
- Parents involved in the accountability

Websites

- www.projectspotlight.org/spotlight/as_gangs01.html
- http://davadnai.users.omniglobal.net/gang.html
- www.tgia.net/index.html
- www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/gangs
- www.isp.state.il.us/crime/streetgangs.htm
- www.ganginformation.com
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JS4wWrboEQ

Contact Information

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