

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The first step in ant prevention/intervention effort is education. Please call any of the following for more information.

Greensboro Police Department  
(336) 373-2650

High Point Police Department  
(336) 887-7940

Guilford County Sheriff's Office  
(336) 641- 5967

Guilford County Court Alternatives Department  
(336) 931- 0415

Greensboro Park's and Recreation - Hope Project  
(336) 279 – 5019



Court Alternatives  
Department



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# GANGS

In

## Guilford County

Identification **MURDER** **DRUGS**  
**SCHOOL DROP OUTS**  
**ASSAULT**  
**ROBBERY**  
**PROPERTY DESTRUCTION**

AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR A  
BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THIS  
GROWING SUB-CULTURE

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The Weaver Foundation, Greensboro &  
High Point Police Dept., Guilford County  
Sheriff's Dept., Guilford County Court  
Alternatives, Greensboro Parks and  
Recreation, and The Hope Project.

## What Is A Gang?

**Gang:** a group or association that consist of at least but not limited to three or more persons who may or may not have a common identifying name, sign or symbol and who collectively or individually engage in, have engaged in or have attempted to engage in criminal activity that creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

Criminal activity includes juvenile behaviors and actions that if committed by an adult it would be a crime.

Gang members could be male or female. Gangs of today are excepting more and more females into full membership.

Females also have developed their own gang sets separate from the males.

Members can be of any social status; religious back ground and any race.

## How Old Are Gang Members?

The average age range is 14-26, but research has discovered that members as young as 5 years and as old as 50 years have been reported. The older gang members are usually called OG'S (original gangsters) and the younger ones soldiers.

## How Do You Become A Member Of A Gang?

- **Blessed In:** the child is accepted into the gang because family members are current members.
- **Jumped In:** a high-ranking member directs other members to inflict brutal beatings on the child, the child could even be stabbed or even shot as a way to be accepted.
- **Criminal Acts:** a high-ranking member directs the child to complete a task. The task could range from a simple act of tagging (the act of spray painting gang symbols) assault, armed robbery and even murder.

## Possible Signs Of Drug Use

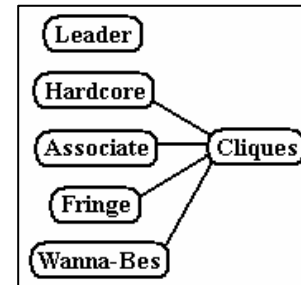
- Change in friends
- Negative changes in schoolwork, missing school, or declining grades
- Increased secrecy about possessions or activities
- Use of incense, room deodorant, or perfume to hide smoke or chemical odors
- Subtle changes in conversation with friends, e.g. more secretive, using "coded" language
- Fascination with clothes that highlight drug use
- Increase in borrowing money
- Evidence of drug paraphernalia such as pipes, rolling papers, etc.
- Evidence of use of inhalant products (such as hairspray, nail polish, correction fluid, common household products); rags and paper bags are sometimes used a accessories
- Bottles of eye drops, which may be used to mask bloodshot eyes or dilated pupils
- New use of mouthwash or breath mints to cover up the smell of alcohol



## Tips To Aid In The Prevention Of Gang Involvement

- Know who your child spends time with. Meet your child's friends and their parents.
- Get involved with your child's school, sports and church activities.
- Talk with your child in positive ways and praise them often.
- Set limits! Learn to say "NO". Unacceptable behavior that is allowed becomes Acceptable Behavior.
- Don't allow your child to dress in gang style clothing.
- Don't allow your child to stay out and roam the streets late at night.
- Monitor the TV, movies, music and video games your child obsesses over.
- Learn about gang activity in your area and be a good role model for your child.

## GANG STRUCTURE



All gangs have different levels of membership. The different levels indicate status within the gang's organization.

- **Leader:** The leader(s) is all-powerful. The leader(s) set the level and determines the types of criminal activities.
- **Hardcore:** The hardcore gang members are usually older, who are deeply enmeshed in the gang and are at risk of being so for life. The hardcore members commit a large percentage of the violent criminal acts.
- **Associate:** The associate gang member has been through the initiation process and has made some level of personal commitment to the gang and strives to reach the status of hardcore.
- **Fringe:** The fringe gang member moves in and out of the gang. They are able to function in both gang and everyday activities and have not made the life commitment.
- **Wanna-Bes:** Wanna-bes are what the name implies, they want to be a member. They associate with gang members and imitate gang life.
- **Cliques:** The clique is a group of associate, fringe and often wanna-bes who gravitate around one or more of the hardcore gang members. This resembles a gang but does not contain the entire gang structure. This group is usually seen in schools.

## WHY DO KIDS JOIN GANGS?

Kids join gangs for several reasons, some to meet needs that are not being met in the child's home, school or community.

Gangs can replace fear with security, lack of direction with structure, and supply the discipline that is missing at home.

The absence of positive influence, praise, and quality time with parents, teachers or positive role models can be a turning point in a child's life.

Love Attention, Praise and Discipline are major building blocks in the development of a child and can be given from all areas of a child's life (home, school, and community).

## WHAT DOES A PERSON GET FROM JOINING A GANG?

**Acceptance:** children want to be chosen to, be a part of something.

**Protection:** children want to be protected.

**Identity:** children want their own identity.

**Fellowship:** children want to have friends.

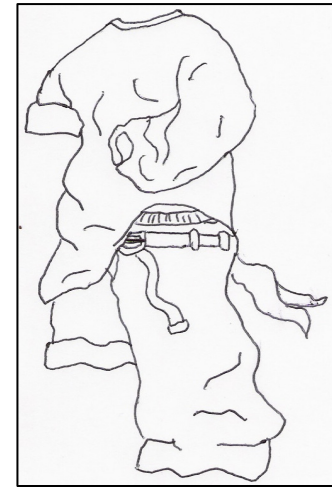
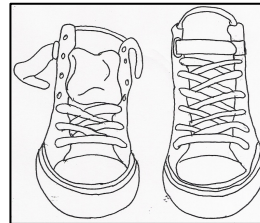
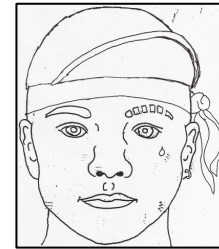
**Excitement:** children crave excitement.

**Intimidation:** learn to use this as an alternative to get what they need and or want.

**Respect:** members demand respect and use violence or the threat of violence to get it.

**Financial:** making easy money has a major influence.

## WHAT DOES A GANG BANGER LOOK LIKE?



Gang members dress in a way to show an outward representation of their gang affiliation. What gang members refer to as "Representing" can be done in several ways.

### Gang Dress Identifiers

- Constant use of one color
- One pant leg or shirt sleeve rolled up
- Belt buckle pulled to one side
- One shoe laced up and one left loose
- Lines shaved into one eye brow or side of head
- Gang related symbols drawn on clothing
- Ear or nose ring on one side of head
- Do-rag or bandana tied to on side of the head
- Bandana wore hanging out of back pocket
- Tattoos of gang symbols or street names

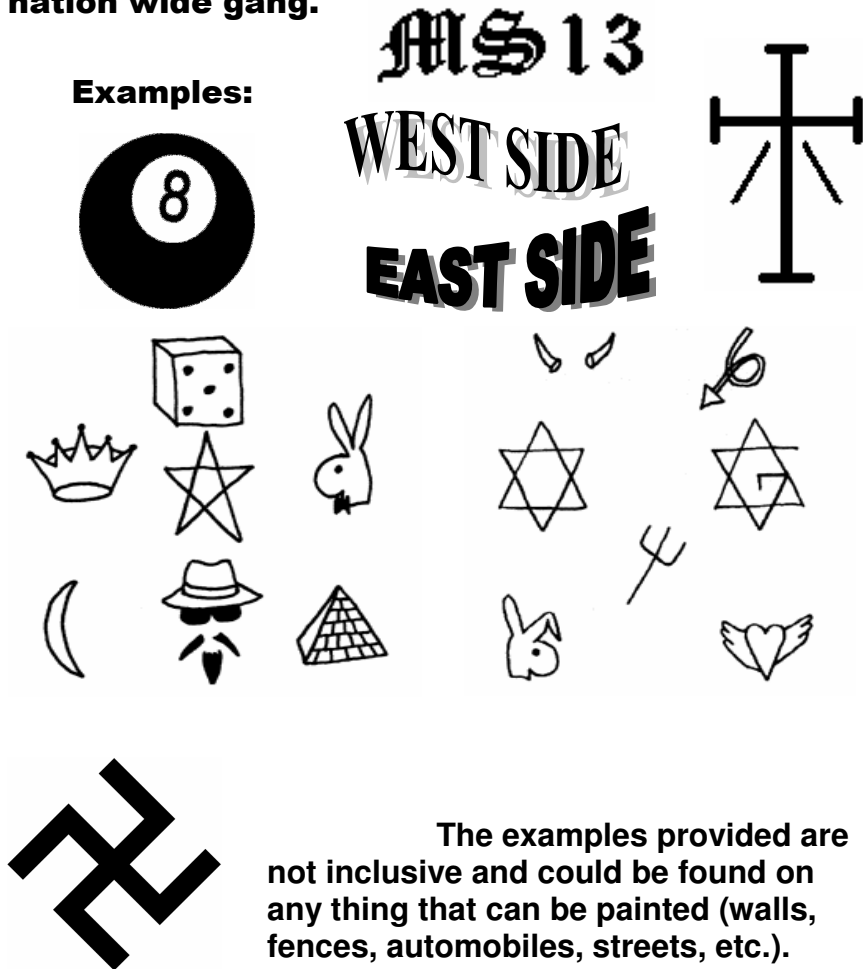
The examples provided above do not hold true to all known gangs and more information would be needed to avoid making a false identification.

# GANG GRAFFITI

Some consider graffiti to be an art form but in reality it is destruction of property.

Graffiti is an example of what gangs use to identify their turf and or neighborhood. It is also used to show disrespect to another local or nation wide gang.

Examples:



The examples provided are not inclusive and could be found on any thing that can be painted (walls, fences, automobiles, streets, etc.).

## RISK FACTORS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL GANG MEMBERS

All though an exact modal does not exist to warn us on what to look for, a child that displays two – three or more of the listed behaviors may be more likely to explore gang membership.

- Poor academic performance
- Any interest in school is switched to new friends
- Getting in trouble with police
- Disciplinary action becoming more frequent at home and or school
- An increase in conflict at home with parents
- Large un supervised periods of time
- Gang dress and or dressing in an intimidating way
- Tattoos that could be just drawing on the body or the real thing
- The use of sign language
- Drawing or sketching graffiti on notebooks, desk or walls
- Obsession with violent movies, video games and music



## Community Gang Presence Assessment Test

If your answer is yes place a check mark in the box.

1.	Is there a history of gangs in the area you live in?	
2.	Has there been an increase of racial incidents in your community?	
3.	Is there graffiti in or around your community?	
4.	If yes has it been drawn over or crossed out?	
5.	Have physical confrontations increased in or around your community?	
6.	Has there been an increase in home invasions, burglaries, auto theft, vandalism and or truancy in or around your community?	
7.	Has there been any shootings (Drive-byes or other) in or around your community?	
8.	Have there been any reports of sexual assaults in or around your community?	
9.	Has there been an increase in people carrying and flashing weapons (Guns, Knives, or other) in or around your community?	
10.	Do you know if drugs are sold in or around your community?	
11.	Do groups of people in your community wear a common color, brand of clothing, hairstyle and or tattoo?	
12.	Do these groups show each other a common handshake or hand sign (sign language)?	
13.	Do these groups call themselves a common name (Bloods, Crips, Kings, North, South, East, West, etc.)?	
14.	Has there been an increase in people hanging out on the streets late at night?	
15.	Has calling the authorities increased in or around your community?	

**Total Check Marks: \_\_\_\_\_**    1 – 5 Emerging Problems  
 6 – 10 You Have Problems  
 11 – 15 There Are Serious Problems

## Gang Presence Assessment Test For Schools

If your answer is yes place a check mark in the box.

1.	Is there a history of gangs at your school?	
2.	Has there been an increase of racial incidents at your school?	
3.	Is there graffiti in or around your school grounds (bathrooms, lockers, desk tops, etc)?	
4.	If yes has it been drawn over or crossed out?	
5.	Have physical confrontations increased in your school?	
6.	Have there been any reports of sexual assaults in your school?	
7.	Has there been an increase in people carrying and flashing weapons (Guns, Knives, or other) in your school?	
8.	Do you know if drugs are sold in or around your school?	
9.	Do groups of people in your school wear a common color, brand of clothing, hairstyle and or tattoo?	
10.	Do these groups show each other a common handshake or hand sign (sign language)?	
11.	Do these groups call themselves a common name (Bloods, Crips, Kings, Sur13, MS13, etc.)?	
12.	Are there older people hanging in or around school grounds that do not attend your school?	
13.	Have students been taken into custody at your school for criminal offences (guns, drugs, assault, etc.)?	
14.	Have you heard of anyone being jumped (gang initiation) in at school?	
15.	Do students fear walking around school when not in a group?	

**Total Check Marks: \_\_\_\_\_**    1 – 5 Emerging Problems  
 6 – 10 You Have Problems  
 11 – 15 There Are Serious Problems