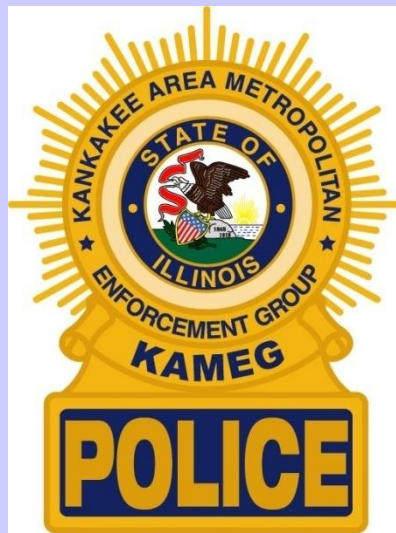


# Street Gangs

## *Parent and Community Awareness Strategies*



**Kankakee Area Metropolitan  
Enforcement Group**

**Three goals** that parents and communities should seek to reduce the adverse impact of gangs, its associated violence and its devastating life-long impacts are:

- 1. Raise your gang awareness level.**
- 2. Supervise your children.**
- 3. Get involved with your children, your neighborhood and your community.**



# *What is a gang?*

- A gang is a group of people who want to be seen as different from others and want others to perceive them as a distinct group. This group is organized, has leadership, and is committing criminal acts in the community.



# *What is a gang?*

- A criminal street gang is a formal or informal ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons who have:
  - A common name or common identifying signs, colors, or symbols.
  - Members or associates who individually or collectively, engaged in or have engaged in a pattern of youth and street gang activity such as fighting, vandalism, murder, and drug sales.

# *What is a gang?*

- Gang membership is not in and of itself illegal.
- Gangs establish their reputation by the types and severity of the crimes they commit.
- Gang members establish their reputation within the gang by committing serious crimes, which ultimately elevates the gang's reputation in the streets, and with rival gangs.

# *Does our community have gangs?*

No single criminal or unlawful activity will indicate there are gangs in your community. These conditions may indicate the **possible** existence of gangs....

- Rampant graffiti on streets, curbs, buildings, in schools, etc.
- Widespread vandalism, auto thefts, robberies/muggings.
- Senseless crimes of violence.
- Fighting between youths followed by crimes committed with weapons.
- Youths commonly seen traveling in groups.
- Most importantly, drug trafficking and drug use.

# *How do gangs recruit members?*

## SEDUCTION

Gangs create glorified myths that are very attractive to young recruits, such as the promise of money, sex and glamour. The symbols of the gang, such as hand signs, graffiti, colors and tattoos are visually attractive to young recruits. These symbols make young recruits feel they are part of something organized and powerful. Especially to those that have no family structure or support at home. Gangs will have parties and invite the younger recruits, where they will have fun, get high and they believe the rhetoric they are being bombarded with.





# *Do females join gangs?*

Female gang membership is sky rocketing. Current trends are that specific female gangs are emerging here in Kankakee and all over the Nation. Females are valued by the majority of gangs, but they are not true members and are often in support roles like carrying the weapons and drugs.





# *What is the general gang membership structure?*

**Claimers, Associates or "Wanna-be's."** These young people are not officially members of the gang but they act, walk, talk, and claim to be from the gang. They may begin to dress in gang attire, hang around with the gang and become involved in some of the gangs activities.



# *What is the general gang membership structure?*

## **Futures or "Wanna-be's."**

These are youngsters who are getting close to an age where they may feel the need to join a gang, or live in a neighborhood, or close to an area where gangs are prevalent. Wanna-be's may also have family members who are involved with gangs which pressures them into joining.



# *What is the general gang membership structure?*

## **Regular Members.**

Average age 14-25 years old; however could be much older or younger. They are already initiated in to the gang.



# *What is the general gang membership structure?*

**Hard-core.** They are in the gang the longest and frequently are in and out of jail, unemployed, involved with drug distribution and weapons violations.





# Why do gangs use graffiti and what does it mean?

As gang activity increases so does their graffiti. Graffiti has been called the "newspaper of the streets." Each gang has its unique symbols and cryptic types of writing. Graffiti is *not art work*; it is sophisticated communication that publicizes the gang's power, status, delineates territory, sends messages, and warns intruders.



# *What do you do about gang graffiti?*

**Read It! Record It! Report It!  
And Remove It!!**

Gang graffiti left unchecked can be dangerous. Remember it can communicate an outright threat against an opposing gang or person.





# *What are gang colors?*

Colors refers to a gang member representing his/her membership by wearing a specific gang logo, particular colors of clothing, a specific brand name of clothing or clothing worn in a predefined manner. This may also include hair styles, jewelry, or even the way a person stands, walks or folds arms and hands. Colors identify the gang member and show member pride and affiliation.

# People vs. Folk

People and Folk alliances were formed in 1978 in the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). Many of the leaders and members of the Chicago gangs were incarcerated in IDOC. The increased number of gangs in one location created a need for immediate visual gang identification that would enable members to distinguish allies from enemies.

People or Folk Nations are not gangs, but an alliance in which other gangs fall under and are united. This idea of uniting gangs under one umbrella is still adhered to today in Chicago as well as throughout the United States.

# Local Gang Colors

## **Harrison Gents- Folk Alliance**

Symbols: Numbers 187-(Stand for place in alphabet- 1st, 8th & 7th letters-AHG), letters "AHG" or "HG", which stands for Almighty Harrison Gents

6 pt star, man or skull with top hat and monocle, cross with a line from corners, canes, 4 dots, top hat

Colors: Purple & Black

Originating Story: This gang was formed near Harrison and Western in the 1960's. This gang was originally known as the Harrison Gentlemen.

## **Latin Kings- People Alliance**

Symbols: Three or five point crown, 5 point star, king symbol known as the "Master", Letters "LK", "ALKN", "LKN", lion head, five dots, which stands for Almighty Latin King Nation

Colors: Gold & Black

Apparel: LA Kings, Pittsburgh Pirates, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Sacramento Kings

Originating Story: This gang originated in Humboldt Park on 18th & Wabash in the 1960's.

# Gang Indicators





# Gang Indicators



# Gang Indicators



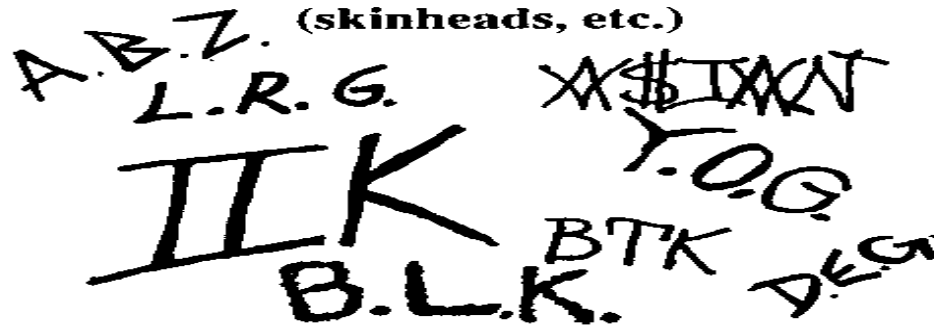
**Folk Nation- Harrison Gents**



# Gang Homework?



- Third Reich symbols  
(skinheads, etc.)

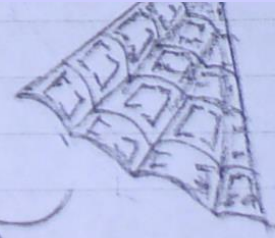


- Asian groups



- People/ViceLord  
Groups

# Gang Homework?



SGE



13

2  
SULX

JUN 2 2004

**VLB** Vato Loco Boyz

**JB/JrB** Junior Boys

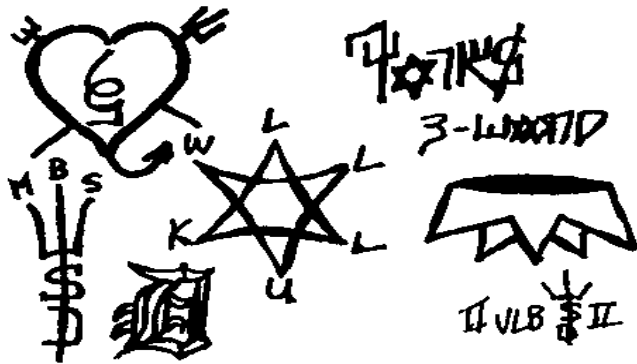
**ICG** Insane Crips

**NHC** Neighborhood Crips

**FOLK** Black Gangster Disciples

**WVB** Wichita Villian Bloods

**TRU** Tru Boys



Latin groups/Folks

**AkYxGxGx**

**II V II** *o v e r* *o n* **BIC**

- Female groups

**CRIP**

**ICG**



**AK** **SLAB** **KILLA**

**NHC**

**NORTSIDE**

- Crip groups

2-11

22-12-2

3-11

- numbers denote letter of alphabet (eg 22-12-2 = VLB)

22  
12  
11

**187**

- California State Penal Code for murder, has become graffiti standard

**BLAATZ**

**316**  
**PIRU**

**KRAE**  
**KILLA**

**WICHITA**  
**WVB**  
**VILLIAN**  
**BLOODZ**

**Red**  
**Reggin'** **&K**

- Blood groups

## *How do you deal with gangs?*

- Be decisive, firm, and fair. Lenient treatment is viewed as weakness and they will take advantage of you.
- Intimidation will not work; it will most likely lead to confrontation. Lectures do not work either. Gang members are looking for respect.
- Giving any public or media attention to a gang only feeds their egos and escalates gang activity.

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

- o Poor progress or achievement in school**
- o Truancy from school**
- o Lack of hobbies or too much leisure time**
- o Frequent contact with authority figures or police**
- o Draws gang insignias/symbols**
- o Problems at home**
- o Lives in neighborhood where gangs exist**
- o Friends are gang members or "dressing down" or "sagging and bagging" in gang attire**
- o Begins dressing in traditional gang clothes**

# What can parents do?

- Know your children's friends.
- Know about who and what influences your kids.
- Know what your children are doing at all times.
- Become involved with them and occupy their time.
- Strive for good communication between you and your youngsters.
- Again, spend time with them.
- Do not allow gang dress.



# What can parents do?

- Do not allow hanging in the streets beyond curfew hours.
- Be very suspicious of gang writing, graffiti, or tattoos.
- Encourage anti-gang attitudes at home.
- Learn about gangs and drugs.
- Participate in your child's education—find out what's happening at school.
- Get involved in community affairs.
- Set the example for your kids—they will do what you do.

***THANK YOU!***

**Special Agent Kris Lombardi**

**815-933-1710**

**[www.kameg.org](http://www.kameg.org)**

**Kankakee Area Metropolitan  
Enforcement Group**