

**GLITEM**

**NEIGHBORHOOD GANG  
PREVENTION AND  
AWARENESS**

**1-888-NO GANGS**

# ARIZONA STATE GANG TASK FORCE

## **Gang Enforcement Bureau Mission Statement**

The mission of the Gang & Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) is to:

- Deter criminal gang activity through investigations, arrest and prosecution.
- Dismantle gang related criminal enterprises.
- Deter border related crimes.
- Disrupt human smuggling organizations.
- Collect, analyze and disseminate gang and illegal immigration intelligence.
- Provide anti-gang awareness training to communities and schools.

*GIITEM's Neighborhood Gang Prevention and Awareness guide is produced by the Arizona State Gang Task Force and published by the Rocky Mountain Information Network. Source: San Antonio Police Department. Printed in Winter 2007.*

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## A Handbook for Parents, Teachers, and Concerned Citizens

### What is a gang?

A group of people who form an alliance for a common purpose and engage in violent or criminal activity.

ARS-13-105:

"Criminal street gang" means an ongoing formal or informal association of persons whose members or associates individually or collectively engage in the commission, attempted commission, facilitation or solicitation of any felony act and that has at least one individual who is a criminal street gang member.



"Criminal street gang member" means an individual to whom two of the following seven criteria that indicate criminal street gang membership apply:

- (a) Self proclamation.
- (b) Witness testimony or official statement.
- (c) Written or electronic correspondence.
- (d) Paraphernalia or photographs.
- (e) Tattoos.
- (f) Clothing or colors.
- (g) Any other indicia of street gang membership.

### What are the ages of gang members?

The average age of gang members is 14 to 21 years of age. Gang members, however, can be as young as 8 years old or as old as mid 40's. Recruitment into the gang usually starts in the middle school where the age group is between 10 and 13. Some recruitment has also been seen in elementary schools and into the early years of high school. Most gangs target youth that are easily persuaded into doing work for the gang.

*National Survey: Approximately 37% of all gang members are under 18 years of age.  
- Institute for Intergovernmental Research*

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## Why do kids join gangs?

The following is a list of reasons why kids join gangs:

*Acceptance* - Many kids feel they are not getting the attention they think they deserve at home. They start looking for this attention and love in other places and often find what they are looking for in a gang. The gang essentially becomes their family.

*Excitement* - This group of kids loves the "high" of committing crimes and getting away with it. They often do their crimes just to be chased by the police. These individuals are adrenaline junkies and love the thrill of criminal activity. They can be dangerous because they are daring and know no limitations.

*To earn money* - More and more, we are seeing gang members turn towards using the gang to make a profit through illegal activities. Selling narcotics, robberies, burglaries, auto thefts, illegal immigrant smuggling and other crimes are common in many gangs. Many gangs specialize in certain criminal activity.

*"Most kids have some real or imagined problem at home that makes them prefer the streets." - Gangs and At-Risk Kids website: <http://www.gangsandkids.com/index.html>*

*Peer Pressure* - If your kids are hanging around gangs and gang members you can almost guarantee that they are being pressured to join the gang. It is important to know who your children are associating with.

*Protection* - In low income neighborhoods and neighborhoods with high gang activity, kids often have to join a gang just to survive. It is often easier to join the gang than to be victimized on a daily basis. This can be an issue in a school that is not effectively suppressing gang activity. These kids need to involve adults in their feeling of insecurity as an alternative to joining a gang; the adults can pursue their kids' security needs by communicating these concerns with school or law enforcement officials, immediately.

*To Socialize* - The best parties in town are gang parties. Easy access to liquor, narcotics, and girls are attractive to potential gang recruits. Young males who have a hard time socializing and talking to girls, find that girls often like gang members.

## What do kids have to do to get into the gang?

There are many different ways that gangs initiate recruits into the gang. The following are some examples of how gang members get initiated:

*Rolled in/Jumped in* - This ritual usually consists of the recruit having to fight three or more members of the gang for a specified amount of time. The time limit is different



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from gang to gang, but usually lasts between 15 seconds and 1 minute. The reason for the beating is to see how tough the recruit is and if he/she is a fighter. They refer to this as "testing the recruit's heart" or bravery. The kid may come home with unexplained bruises or injuries.

*Lined in* - is slightly different in that the gang has two lines of its members and the recruit has to go between the lines as the gang members beat him or her. Often time's officers are called to new gang members homes at the request of the parent to take Assault reports. The child is often uncooperative and unwilling to tell the officer or his parent who his assailants are because he has just joined a gang. This is the most common initiation into the gang.

*Courted in* - Sometimes an individual is asked to join a gang without going through any initiation. The individual usually has some type of special talent that the gang wants to learn or take advantage of. The individual may have a good connection for drugs, is good at stealing cars, or has some other criminal talent. It may also be that the individual has a car that the gang needs to commit criminal activity or just to get around town in. Often times this individual has an existing reputation for being tough, a leader, or a good fighter.

*Walked In* - Some gangs have no formal initiation and may just be asked to join the gang.

*"Someone who makes the choice to join a gang usually sets his life up to end in one of two ways -- jail or death." -- Delbert Boone, GWC Inc.*

*Sexed In* - Sometimes female recruits are required to roll two dice. Whatever number is thrown is the number of gang members that the recruit has to have sex with. This is an alarming new trend that can lead to spreading sexually transmitted diseases within a gang.

*Commit Crimes* - Some gangs require that a recruit commit a crime or a series of crimes to prove that they are good candidates for the gangs. Often times, gangs that specialize in a particular crime such as auto theft, will require the recruit to steal a car or commit the crime that they specialize in. Some gangs have point systems for the crimes and the recruit has to have so many points. The crimes required to be committed can be as violent as drive-by shootings or murder.

*Born In* - gang members are often times "required" to be part of the local gang due to living in that traditional "gang neighborhood" or they are the child or a gang member. These are often the extremely devoted gang members that are hard to remove from the "lifestyle."

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## What indications should I look for ?

- Major / Negative Behavior/ Gang Clothing
- Hand Signs/ Gang Tattoos
- Carrying Weapons Unexplained / fairly large sums of money
- Gang Graffiti on books, book bags, written on hands
- Defiant of adults in authoritative positions
- Wearing altered headwear/ writing a gang name or nickname inside of hat

## Major / Negative Behavior Changes

Typically, teenagers at some point in their lives will rebel against authority. This is to be expected, but if it continues to get progressively worse, this could be a sign of a child involved in gangs. The following are examples of behaviors consistent with those of gang members.

- Withdraws from family members.
- The gang becomes his / her family.
- Breaks parental rules consistently.
- Grades have dropped / trouble at school.
- Lack of hobbies or interests.
- Develops an unusual desire for privacy.
- Will not let you into their bedroom.
- Does not want you to meet their friends.
- Friends have nicknames like Psycho or Shooter and they do not know the real names of their friends or won't tell you.
- Obsessed with Gangster rap / gangster movies and videos / guns.
- Possible use of alcohol / drugs.
- Hanging with known or suspected gang members.
- Frequent negative contact with police / other authority figures
- Admits to gang membership.



It is suggested that these problems be dealt with immediately. Denial that there is a problem, or not dealing with the problem in the hope that it will go away, will only make the matter worse. Often times a parent will bond with a child that has been troubled when the child is being confronted by school or law enforcement officials, which complicates the problem in that the child perceives this as the parents' acceptance of their gang activities.

*Many parents refuse to recognize their children's gang involvement until it's too late. Be alert to signs of possible gang membership.*

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## Gang Clothing

It should be noted that gang members often wear clothing that is currently popular among juveniles in general. The wearing of the clothing that is described in this section does not automatically make that person a gang member. However, a combination of the clothing worn, along with a certain color scheme or the manner in which the clothing is worn, can indicate membership in a gang. As gang members find out what clothing is becoming too noticeable to people, they may change what they wear. What is fashionable today may not be tomorrow and gang members like to be fashionable. The following are examples of gang clothing.



### Clothing and Styles - Boys

- Shaved, bald head or extremely short hair
- White oversized T-shirt creased in the middle
- White athletic type undershirt
- Polo-type knit shirts (oversized) and usually button to the top and not tucked in
- Oversized Dickie, Ben Davis or Solos pants
- Pants worn low, or "sagging" and cuffed inside on the bottom
- Pants dragging on the ground
- Baseball hats worn backwards (usually black and sometimes with the gang initials)
- Cut-off under the knee, short pants worn with knee-high socks
- A predominance of dark or dull clothing, or clothing of one particular color
- Black oversized jackets, sweatshirts, jerseys, etc.
- Black stretch belt with chrome or silver gang initial belt buckle
- Oversized shirts
- Clothing a mixture of gang colors, black and silver or white

### Clothing and Styles - Girls

- Exaggerated use of mousse, gel or baby oil in the hair
- Black or dark clothing and shoes
- Black oversized jackets, sweatshirts, athletic football jerseys, etc.
- Oversized shirts worn outside the pants
- Dark jackets with lettering (cursive or Old English style)
- Baggy, long pants dragging on the ground
- Heavy makeup, excessive eye shadow, shaved eyebrows, dark lipstick
- Tank tops or revealing blouses
- Stretch belts with initial on the belt buckle
- Overalls not fastened



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The use of colored beads is also popular with gang members. The color of the bead is dependent on the color the gang has adopted for their gang. The bead can be made into a necklace as illustrated or worn in the shoelaces, made into a key chain, worn in braids in their hair and used in other fashions. Colored rubber bands worn in hair braids or around their wrist can also be indicators of gang membership. The use of colored rosary beads and other religious articles have also been noted. These are subtle indicators of gang membership and are often hard to notice if you are not looking for them. With the introduction of strict dress codes and the use of uniforms in the school systems, these types of indicators seem to be favored by the gangsters.

The use of colored shoelaces is also common. The type of tennis shoes worn can also indicate gang membership. Some the popular styles worn are British Knights tennis shoes because of the initials BK which stand for Blood Killer. Columbia Knights tennis shoes are also popular and stand for Crip Killers. The old style Nike tennis shoes are in demand and are often referred to as G-Nikes. The old style Converse canvas tennis shoes (Chuck Taylors) are also in demand. The five pointed star used on the Converse is the same as a gang symbol used by many gangs nationwide. Steel toe boots are also used, mainly with skinhead gangs. A popular style boot used by the skinheads and other gangs are the Dr. Marten brand. Bloods will often wear Calvin Klein clothing "C.K" meaning Crip Killers.

Customized T-shirts and baseball caps are also popular amongst gangsters. Most often the name or initials of the gang will be used along with any symbols used by the gang in their graffiti. Often times gang members will write gang graffiti on their clothing, shoes, baseball caps, on their wallets or other articles of clothing. Many times a gang will adopt a popular sports team's style of apparel, especially if the colors of that team is the same as their gang color or the team logo has some significant meaning to the gang.

## Gang Handsigns



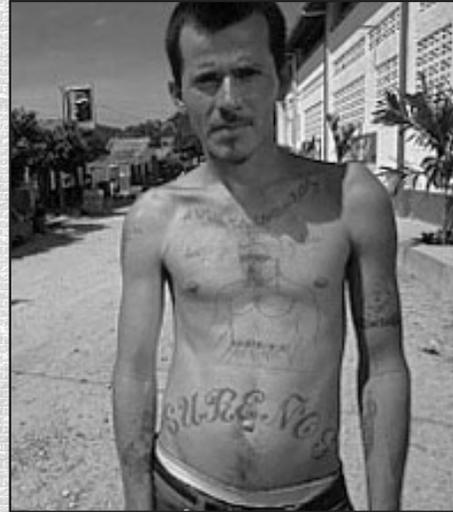
The use of hand signs is a popular form of communication among street gangs. The hand sign usually identifies what major gang affiliation the individual is a part of and the particular gang he is in. The hand sign is also a form of disrespect to rival gangs and has been the cause of gang violence around the nation. There have been cases reported where hearing impaired

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individuals using sign language to communicate have been mistaken for gang members and have been the victims of gang violence. Hand signs are usually unique to the gang and vary greatly. If you notice two groups of suspected gang members throwing hand signs at each other, get away from the group and notify the local authorities immediately.

## Gang Tattoos

Gang tattoos are the sign of a hardcore gang member. Individuals who mark themselves with gang writing have usually made a decision to stay in the gang for a long time. Besides tattooing, branding oneself with gang signs is a popular form of showing allegiance to their gang. Usually, the gang tattoo or brand are the same symbols or words used in gang graffiti.



## Gang Weapons

The use of weapons of all types is inherent in street gangs. Currently the most popular gun is the Norinco SKS assault rifle. This gun is manufactured in China and imported into the U.S. The price and availability of this weapon make it easily obtainable. The gun can be purchased for about 100 dollars. The use of shotguns is also popular, as are the cheaper handguns often called "Saturday Night

Specials." Knives, brass knuckles, bats, explosives, and other weapons have been confiscated from gang members. Gang members obtain their weapons in many different ways. One method is known as a "straw purchase". A straw purchase is where a person buys the gun legally and then gives the gun to someone who is not allowed by law to have the weapon. The



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person buying the gun usually receives a fee for purchasing the weapon. Gun shows, pawn shops, and flea markets are popular places to purchase weapons. Some weapons are stolen in burglaries of residences or robberies of gun dealers.

## **Gang Crimes (Crimes for Profit)**

Current trends show that more and more street gangs are getting into narcotics trafficking. Incidents of gang members caught in the schools with drugs are on the rise. Battles over the control of drug areas and drug money have also been noted. Besides narcotics trafficking, other crimes such as armed robbery, auto theft, burglaries, and other types of thefts are committed by gang members. Much of the money made from these illegal activities are used to throw parties, buy guns to protect their drug trade or to commit crimes with, and to finance the purchase of, narcotics for resale. Besides the crimes for profit, violent criminal activity such as murders, drive-by shootings, sexual assaults, and other assaults are higher among the gang population. If your child is in possession of money he cannot explain, this may be an indicator of his being involved in illegal gang activity. It might be a good idea to search your child's room for any narcotics, stolen items, or weapons that he may be hiding if you suspect he or she is involved in gang activity. Once you have verified that your son or daughter is involved in gang activity, deal with the problem immediately. It may become necessary to seek professional counseling. Most community governments offer some type of counseling or can refer you to the proper organization. You can also use the school counselor as a resource for referrals.

## **Gang Graffiti**

Gangs nationwide are usually influenced from the West Coast or Midwest, namely Los Angeles, California or Chicago, Illinois. On a national level we see an influence from the Crips, Bloods, and Sureños from California and the influence of Arizona home grown gangs in major metropolitan communities like the Phoenix Valley and Tucson Metro areas. Current trends show a major influence from Prison Gangs. Non-traditional gangs such as taggers, party crews, skinheads, car clubs, posses, and others are also seen around the nation. Each national affiliation has its own style of dress, rules, and gang graffiti. The next segment will discuss these major gang affiliations and show some of the graffiti they use. Some of these symbols may not be seen in your area because local gangs will change or modify the gang symbols or



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use their own to identify themselves. Gang graffiti is often referred to by law enforcement as the newspaper of the street. This is because a lot can be learned about the gang from their graffiti. Graffiti usually names the gang and its members. It marks the gang's territory and is a warning to rival gangs. It can also tell us what gangs affiliate with each other. Many times, graffiti will show disrespect and warning to rival gangs and individual gang members that they have been targeted. It should be noted that gang graffiti and tagger graffiti are different. This difference will be discussed later.

## Crips

The origin of the Crips affiliation of gangs can be traced to Los Angeles, California around 1969. This affiliation grew from existing gangs in Los Angeles and is now a nationwide problem. Historically, the Crips were originally comprised of African American gangs. This has changed over the years and Crip gangs are now seen that are racially mixed or have no black members in the gang. Crip gangs are referred to as sets by the gang members and this word is often used in their language. The structure of the Crips sets is very loose knit and membership is usually not well defined. This differs from set to set based on the ethnic and racial makeup of that particular set. The breakup of the gang is usually by age groups, with the younger groups (cliques) in the gang looking to the older group for guidance and advice. The following terms are used to describe what age group the gang members fall into.



- O.G. - Original Gangster //// Older members of the gang
- G - Gangster ///// Younger teenagers in the gang
- Y.G. - Young Gangster //// Youngest members of the gang that are also referred to as Tiny Gangster or Little Gangsters

Currently the Crips are aligned with the Folk Nation and are enemies of Bloods and People gangs. Colors - Blue, Purple (Grape Street Watts)

Crips graffiti for the most part is not as ornate as Hispanic gang graffiti. It is common to see that the gang member's tag name is bigger than the gang name itself.

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This is because African American gangs, especially Crips and Bloods, feel that they come before the gang. The gang is there to protect them and their business. In Hispanic gangs, the gang is more important than the individual. The following are some of the symbols used in Crip graffiti:

- BK - Blood Killer
- Cuz - Greeting from one Crip to another
- B crossed out - Disrespect to Bloods
- P crossed out - Disrespect to Pirus (Bloods)
- 187 - California penal code number for murder

Numbers are often used instead of letters - example 1 2 3 = a b c

## Bloods

Shortly after the formation of the Crips, many of the gangs not associated with Crips formed their own alliance. The original gang was the Piru Street gang from Compton, California. Most of the original gangs that formed the Bloods went to Centennial High School in Compton, California. The gangs adopted the school color which is red. From the red came the term Blood which is still used to identify this alliance. Many Blood sets will also use the word Piru to identify themselves. Bloods have grown into a nationwide affiliation much like the Crips. This group also started as an African-American gang, but has many different culture and racial groups that have formed Blood sets. The Blood structure is much like the Crips and they use the same terms to describe their age groups. Nationally the Crips outnumber the Bloods by 2½ to 1 and are enemies. Currently the Bloods are aligned with People Nation gangs. Colors - Red, Black, Green (Limehood Piru).

## Blood Graffiti

Blood graffiti is very similar to that of the Crips. Depending on the racial background of the particular Blood set, the graffiti may differ than the example given on this page. The following are some of the symbols used in Blood graffiti:

- CK - Crip Killer
- C crossed out - Disrespect to the Crips
- B 1 - Bloods are number one
- 187 - California penal code number for murder
- Letters crossed out are disrespect to rival gangs.
- Other gang names crossed out are disrespect to that gang or gang member
- Numbers are also substituted for letters

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## Mexican Mafia

Members of the New Mexican Mafia consider themselves autonomous with relation to the Original Mexican Mafia and the parent organization in California. They have created their own rules and regulations and have established an organizational structure. Each member is allowed to vote on issues regarding membership and leadership. The leader, approved by the members has the power to solely decide important issues (i.e., revoke present membership or reject new members) and may approve new members without an organization vote. As of the printing of this workbook, a few influential members are consulted on major issues by the leader. This may discontinue with a change of leadership.

Membership is comprised of inmates who have many years within the prison system. Some were members of the Original Mexican Mafia, as well as first time offenders. Several newly recruited members have been identified as belonging to Hispanic street gangs throughout Arizona. Most members have been documented by law enforcement as having the New Mexican Mafia tattoo. All members are encouraged to wear it.

## Taggers, Party Crews, Car Clubs

Taggers, Party Crews, and Car Clubs are nontraditional gangs. These types of groups are not documented as gangs unless they are involved in criminal activity. Car Clubs in Arizona are not often documented as a gang. In other parts of the country, they have noted a trend for car clubs to operate like gangs. Taggers consider themselves to be street artists and not gang members. Tagger graffiti is not usually used to mark territory like traditional gang graffiti. Tagging on walls is a competition to those involved. The more you tag, the more recognition and respect you get from other taggers.

Taggers are responsible for millions of dollars in damage to private and public property annually. Many tagging crews are now committing crimes like traditional gangs and are known as tag-bangers. Competition between tagging crews has



often become violent. Party Crews are another non-traditional gang that are of interest to law enforcement. As with taggers, these groups do not consider themselves gangs. They state that they are only into parties and do not claim territory. Party Crews usually put on large parties in which alcohol and drugs are made available to juveniles. Money is charged for entry and there is competition

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between the crews. Many times violence breaks out at these parties between rival gangs or crews that attend these parties. Besides hosting illegal parties, Party Crews are becoming more involved in other crimes such as drive- by shootings, robberies, thefts and burglaries.

## **Violent Hate Gangs**

There are numerous types of hate groups, the most common among juveniles is the Skinheads. It should be noted that not all skinheads are racist and violent. Skinhead groups such as SHARP and ARA are against racism and often have non-Caucasian members. Other groups such as WAR or Aryan Nation are racist and are involved in violent criminal activity against minorities around the world. These are very vocal groups and many of them have their own web-sites on the internet. Some of the indicators of involvement in these types of groups are the use of Nazi symbols and hate slogans in their graffiti.

*Hate crimes pose a serious social problem that scholars and policymakers have argued, in many ways, more threatening to civil society than other types of crimes. Hate crimes tend to be more excessively brutal, especially in the case of bias against persons due to their sexual orientation, race and gender - source: <http://wcr.sonoma.edu/v2n2/umemoto.html>*

The traditional dress of the Skinhead is a shaved head, use of suspenders, and the wearing of Doc Marten brand shoes and boots. Often times, individuals involved in racist Skinhead groups are heavily tattooed with Nazi symbols and white power slogans. Skinheads often associate themselves with organizations like the Ku Klux Klan and other more organized hate groups. You may notice your child visiting hate group websites or visiting white supremacist chat rooms, which are popular among these groups.



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## **Suggested Parenting Skills**

- Be a good observer
- Learn real names of your children's friends
- Monitor living space for gang paraphernalia, weapons, and drugs
- Report all crimes
- Seek the facts - kids will tell you what you want to hear
- Set clear limits - follow through with discipline if they break the rules
- Teach your children decision making skills - help them make the right choices
- Team up with other parents

## **Neighborhood Safety**

Develop positive alternatives for the children in your neighborhood (sports / mentor programs)

- Talk with other parents and neighbors - keep informed
- Work with police and other agencies GET INVOLVED!!!! Join Neighborhood Watch, Cellular On Patrol, PTA , church groups, neighborhood associations
- Report all crime and gang activity, call "911" if the crime is in progress
- Contact your local PD for a Graffiti Abatement Program available to you and do not erase or paint over graffiti until after it is photographed.

## **Pre-Crisis Indicators**

These are some of the signs you may see prior to a violent confrontation:

- Clustering of rival groups (schools, parks, parking lots, movie theaters, etc.)
- The sudden appearance of groups and vehicles not common in your neighborhood.
- Reports of fights and arguments on school property
- Increase in gang graffiti
- Crossing out of gang graffiti
- Violent incidents reported in your neighborhood
- Sudden or excessive change in dress (wearing the same color / flying rags)

## **What Can I Do as a parent?**

- Praise your children for doing well / encourage them to participate in positive activities
- Get to know your children's friends and their families
- Set the example / be a positive role model
- Talk to your children about gangs / discourage participation
- Talk and listen to your children, they do listen therefore communication is key
- Spend quality time with your children
- Put a high value on education
- Identify with positive role model
- Monitor your child's activity on the internet and frequently check their "MYSPACE" account
- Involve your children in positive group activities



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## **KEEPING KIDS OUT OF GANGS**

### **Warning signs for parents and teachers**

If a child you know exhibits any of the following signs or behaviors, that child may be at risk for or already involved in gang activities. Many more children are "gang wanna-be's" than are actually involved in gangs, but many wanna-be's do actually drift into gang activities, including criminal behavior, to try to win approval of gang members.

Warning signs to watch for:

- Sudden poor academic performance.
- Non-involvement with school.
- Relatives are or have been gang members.
- Using a nickname or attaching a prefix.
- Using gang graffiti on book covers, folders.
- Suddenly purchasing or wanting clothing all of one color (especially blue or red).
- Wearing sagging pants down to the hips.
- Wearing an excessive amount of gold jewelry.
- Using hand signals (gang signs).
- Sudden change in friends.
- Suddenly argumentative.
- Desiring too much privacy.
- Developing sudden rebellious attitude with parents and teachers.
- Starting to show signs of tobacco, alcohol or drug use.
- Having friends who use tobacco, alcohol or drugs.
- Sudden affluence (money, clothing, etc.)
- Sudden negative police contact.
- Excessive disciplinary referrals.

## **KEEPING KIDS OUT OF GANGS**

### **Ideas for parents and teachers**

How can you keep your child from becoming interested in gangs? If a child shows signs of being interested in gangs, what can parents or teachers do to re-channel the child's interests? Below are some suggestions:

- Be a Responsible Model For Your Child
- Communicate Honestly; Understand Their Feelings
- Pay Attention to Your Child's Friends
- Pay Attention To School Grades
- Pay Attention and Listen to Your Child
- Set Clear Standards and Stick to Them
- Meet and Talk With Your Child's Friends' Parents
- Get Involved with Your School
- Talk To Teachers
- Get Involved With Your Local Police

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Source: Arizona State Gang Task Force and San Antonio Police Department

GIITEM maintains a 1-888-NO-GANGS (1-888-664-2647) tip line, where callers can anonymously leave information about gang activity, graffiti or of the potential for school violence, .

## Gang Enforcement Contact Information

Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Criminal Investigations Division  
Gang Enforcement Bureau  
P.O. Box 6638, MD3700  
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638

Gang Enforcement Bureau (Phoenix)  
602-223-2329

Northern District (Flagstaff)  
928-214-2534

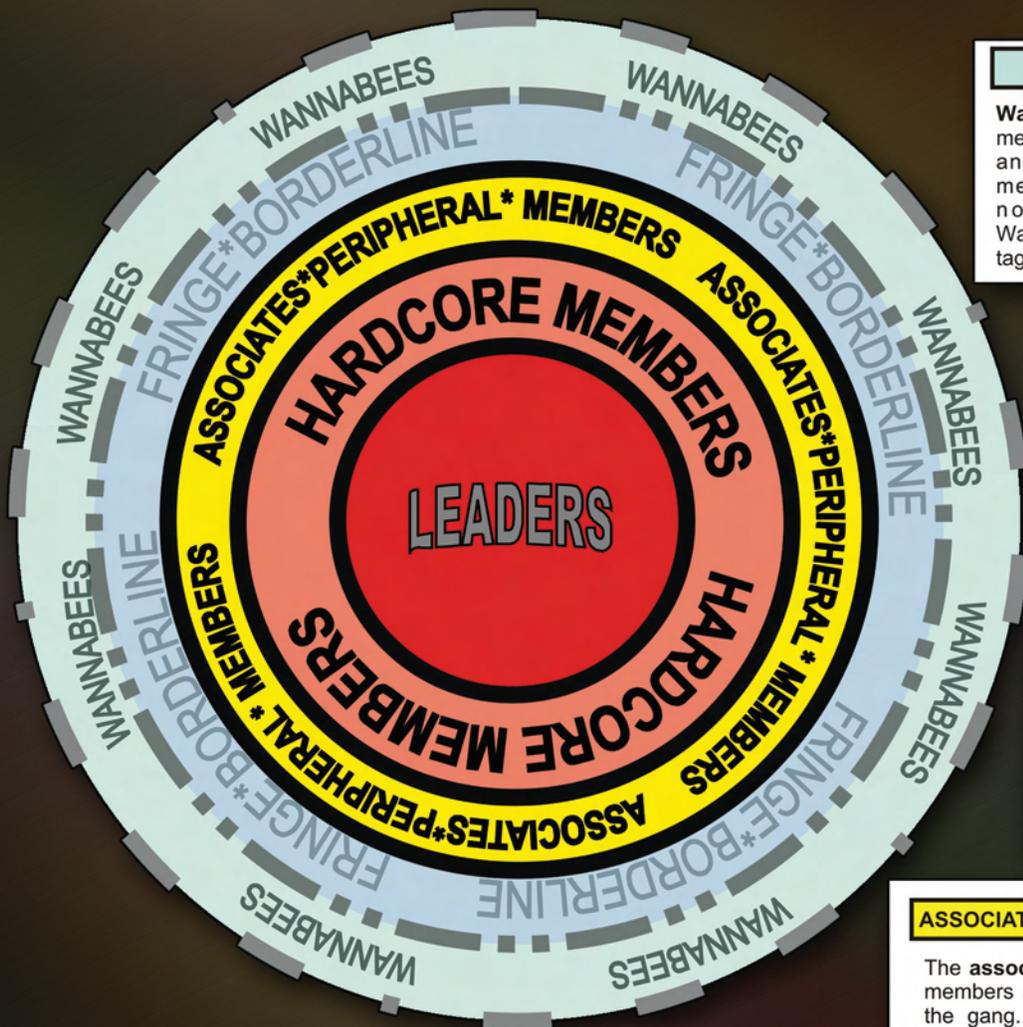
Central District (Phoenix Valley Region)  
602-223-2561

Border District (Tucson and Southern Arizona)  
520-746-4548

Website: <http://www.azdps.gov/gitem/>

Dial: 911 Emergencies Only

# Typical Gang Structure



## WANNABEES

**Wannabees** are not gang members. They may dress, act and associate with gang members, but they have not become members. Wannabees will steal and tag for the gang (ages 11-13).

## LEADERS

The **leader(s)** of the gang are hardcore members that determine the gang's activities. The leader(s) make all decisions regarding gang activity.

## FRINGE or BORDERLINE

The **fringe** or **borderline** associates are outside the gang. They are not committed to the gang. But they do assist in the activities of the gang.

## ASSOCIATE or PERIPHERAL

The **associate** or **peripheral** members are the regulars in the gang. They are usually connected to the hardcore members as family or friends. They work to achieve the respect and recognition from the hardcore members (ages 14-17).

## HARDCORE

The **hardcore** members are usually the oldest members of the gang. They are responsible for the most violent of the gang activities. They are lifetime members.



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