

Pop Culture, Technology and Gangs

The recent glorification of gangs in popular culture presents challenges. Television, movies and music display “gang culture” as glamorous. Gangs also use up-to-date social networks for recruiting purposes. Youth exposed to these images do not realize the dangers of the gang lifestyle until it is too late.



- Develop positive alternatives.

What activities currently exist for after-school involvement?

What can you do to support them?

What recreational facilities exist for your people?

Support positive youth-related activities such as sports, scouting, social clubs, church groups and after-school programs.

- Take a zero-tolerance stand on any gang-related activity and share your view whenever and wherever

Gang crimes and violence affect our community every day. We see boys and girls as young as the age of **9** being recruited into criminal street gangs. This brochure is designed to help parents and caregivers learn about gangs and signs of gang activity in order to prevent kids from joining gangs.

The **Anonymous Gang Tip Hotline** is for citizens wishing to provide anonymous crime tips related to gangs, gang members and/or gang activity.

This is a message service only and not for reporting ongoing emergency information.

For information regarding currently occurring or emergency situations, dial **911**.

The service is anonymous

Persons with information may:

CALL: "386-671-5270"

TEXT: "CRIMES" (274637) with a cell phone **all messages should begin with "DBTIPS."**

or log on to www.dbpd.us and click on "Anonymous Web Tips"

NOT MY KID !



What You Need to Know



Kids and Gangs

ANONYMOUS
Gang Hotline
386-671-5270

Daytona Beach Police Department
129 Valor Blvd
Daytona Beach FL 32114
Michael J. Chitwood, Chief

Some Reasons Why Kids Join Gangs:

- Acceptance - Many kids feel that they are not getting the attention they believe they deserve at home.
- Excitement - This group of kids love 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.
- 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, and other property crimes are common in many gangs.
- 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 - It is often easier to join the gang than to be victimized on a daily basis.
- To Socialize - The best parties in town are gang parties. Easy access to liquor, narcotics, and girls are attractive to potential gang recruits.

What are some potential signs of Gang Involvement:

- Specific colors or emblems on jackets, hats, etc.
- Special hand signals
- Unique tattoo symbols and lettering
- Gang symbols on walls (such as graffiti), books or clothing
- Clothing (hats, bandannas, etc.) suggesting group or gang involvement
- Possession of unexplained large sums of money
- Changes in attitude: violent reactions, disruptive behavior, refusal to respect authority (teachers, police, parents), etc.
- Secretive behavior regarding activities and locations
- Changes in friends
- Truancy or poor school performance
- Phone calls from individuals who either refuse to identify themselves, give unusual nicknames or use a nickname to identify your child
- Negative contact with school officials and law enforcement officers
- Involvement with known or suspected gang members
- Interest in or possession of weapons (guns, knives, etc.)

What Can I Do As A Parent?

- Praise your children for doing well
- Encourage your children 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 and their destructive nature
- Talk and listen to your children
- Spend quality time with your children
- Put a high value on education
- Identify with positive role models
- Involve your children in positive group activities

Suggested Parenting Tips

- Be a good observer - pay attention to your child's behavior
- 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
- Teach your children decision making skills - help them make the right choices
- Team up with other parents