



# **Community Quick Reference Guide**

***Recognizing and  
Preventing Gang  
Involvement***

# ***Recognizing and Preventing Gang Involvement***

- This reference guide provides common warning signs of gang involvement, but may not be all-encompassing.
- Citizens should look for multiple signs to indicate possible gang involvement because some of these indicators alone, such as clothes or musical preferences, are also common among youth not involved in gangs.
- Citizens are encouraged to familiarize themselves with local gang symbols, seek help early, and consider contacting school personnel, local law enforcement, faith leaders, and community organizations for additional assistance.

# ***Warning Signs That Your Child May Be Involved with a Gang***

- Admits to “hanging out” with kids in gangs
- Shows an unusual interest in one or two particular colors of clothing or particular logo
- Has an unusual interest in gangster-influenced music, videos, movies, or websites

# ***Warning Signs That Your Child May Be Involved with a Gang***

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- Uses unusual hand signals to communicate with friends
- Has specific drawings or gang symbols on school books, clothes, walls, or tattoos
- Comes home with unexplained physical injuries (fighting-related bruises, injuries to hand/knuckles)

# ***Warning Signs That Your Child May Be Involved with a Gang***

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- Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothing or jewelry
- Carries a weapon
- Has been in trouble with the police or at school

# ***Warning Signs That Your Child May Be Involved with a Gang***

- Exhibits negative changes in behavior such as:
  - Withdrawal from family
  - Declining school attendance & performance
  - Staying out late without a reason
  - Displaying an unusual desire for secrecy
  - Exhibiting signs of drug use
  - Breaking rules consistently
  - Speaking in gang-style slang
  - Uses gang style hand signs

# What Parents and Communities can do to prevent Gang Involvement

- Spend quality time with your child
  - Hold children accountable for their actions
  - If you don't gangs will
- Get involved in your child's school activities
- Be a positive role model and set the right example
- Know your child's friends and their families
- Encourage good study habits
- Monitor Internet sites that your child may visit.

# What Parents and Communities can do to prevent Gang Involvement

- Teach your child how to cope with peer pressure
- Help your child develop good conflict/resolution skills
  - <http://www.safeyouth.org/>
- Encourage your child to participate in positive after-school activities with adult supervision
  - Recreation centers, organized sports, youth groups and faith based groups.



# What Parents and Communities can do to prevent Gang Involvement

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- Take action in your neighborhood
  - Create a Community Watch group
  - Report gang activity to Law Enforcement
  - Remove graffiti as soon as possible
  - Know your neighbor

# What Parents and Communities can do to prevent Gang Involvement

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- As children mature parents talk with them about; sex, drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- It is imperative that parents talk with your child about the dangers and consequences of gang involvement
  - Ask
- Let your child know that you don't want to see him or her hurt or arrested

# What Parents and Communities can do to prevent Gang Involvement

- Explain to your child that he or she should NOT:
  - Associate with gang members under any circumstances
  - Attend parties or social events that are sponsored by gangs
  - Use hand signs, symbols, slang or language that is meaningful or mimicking gangs
  - Wear clothing, including specific colors that may have meaning to gangs in your area

# What Parents and Communities can do to prevent Gang Involvement

- Request a “Gang Awareness” Class from
  - Your local Law Enforcement Agency or
  - North Carolina Gang Investigator’s Association
    - [Info@ncgangcops.org](mailto:Info@ncgangcops.org)
- Educate yourself on gangs and how they negatively impact communities.
- Contact your NC Legislators in support of the
  - [North Carolina Street Gang Prevention Act](#)

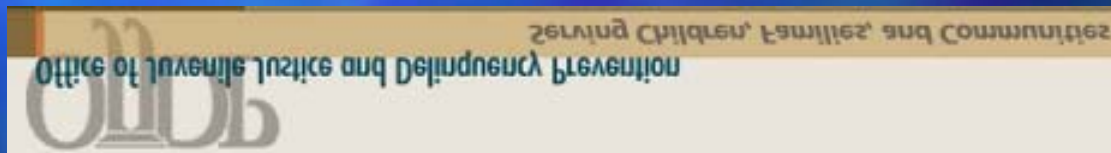
Information for this presentation was obtained from the following sources.



[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)



[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)



[www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org)