

GANG AWARENESS
AND PREVENTION
GUIDE FOR PARENTS
AND TEACHERS

Presented by:

THE
MIDDLESEX COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT
COMMUNITY



MIDDLESEX COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

MIDDLESEX COUNTY
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

MIDDLESEX COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MIDDLESEX COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

MIDDLESEX COUNTY POLICE
CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

What is a Gang?

A gang is defined as an ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons with a common identifier that engage in criminal activity. Gangs can affect anyone, regardless of socioeconomic, background, race, age, or sex. The average gang member is 14-24 years of age. Recruitment into the gang can come as early as middle school where the group is between the ages of 10-13. Females are also playing a more intricate role in gangs.

Why do Children Join Gangs?

- *A need to belong to a group*
- *For excitement*
- *For protection against other gangs or individuals*
- *Lack of family support*
- *To earn money*
- *Media glorification of the gang lifestyle*
- *Peer pressure*
- *Relationships with others in gangs*

What are the Warning Signs and Behaviors of a Child involved in a Gang?

Early adolescence is a time when youths are exposed to gangs and may consider joining. Youths who are initially involved in gangs may exhibit the following behavior:

- *Withdrawing from family*
- *Declining school attendance*
- *Confrontational behavior*
- *Sudden negative behaviors regarding law enforcement or adults in positions of authority*
- *Poor progress or achievement in school*
- *Change in life long friends and reluctance to allow parents to meet new friends*
- *Change in style of clothing*
- *Interest in placing unusual writings, markings, symbols, and street names on public or private property*
- *Violent outbursts*
- *Violent outbursts*
- *Child develops a new nickname*
- *Begins to use hand signs*
- *Child suddenly has excessive amounts of money*
- *Wearing clothing similar to all of his/her friends*
- *Obsession with a particular color*

**Tips for Parents and School
Professionals who know of a child
involved in gang activity.**

Identifying whether a child is involved in gang activity may be difficult. Most juveniles join a gang because it fills a void. In order to help a child transition away from gang activity, parents should consider the following:

- *Family and friends must be supportive*
- *Parents should get to know the child's friends and parents*
- *Be a good role model for your child. Set standards for acceptable behavior*
- *Encourage the child to get involved in activities such as sports, school clubs, family, and community functions*
- *Instruct the child to stop dressing in the manner he/she was as a gang member and parents should avoid purchasing such garments*
- *Consider transferring the child to another school*
- *A dialogue between parent and child must be established concerning his/her gang lifestyle and consequences of the membership*
- *Speak to them about the long-term effects that gang membership will have on them*
- *Become informed and learn about gang activity in your community*
- *Learn about community prevention programs that may assist you with removing your child from a gang*
- *Talk to your child about simple ways to respond to peer pressure*

Gang Awareness
And, Prevention
Guide for Parents and
Teachers

The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office understands the devastating impact that gangs and gang related activities have on our communities. Law Enforcement in Middlesex County works cooperatively in investigations designed to target, arrest, and prosecute violent offenders and, those who disrupt the quality of life. Our success however, is largely dependent upon the assistance and support of our law-abiding citizens who live and work in our county. Together can continue to make Middlesex "The greatest county in the land". We hope the information in this handout is helpful to you and we thank you for your continued support of the Law Enforcement Community in Middlesex County.



Common Identifiers of a Gang



*Red five pointed
star (Blood)*



*Star and Pitchfork
(Folk Nation)*



Latin King Crown



Sureno Tattoo

Safety Precautions when dealing with Gangs in your School:

When a child exhibits behavior associated with gang activities, teachers and parents should inform your school resource officers immediately.

Please educate yourself by the use of the Links listed below and stay safe.

Resources for Parents

NJgangfree.org

Njgia.org

Nationalgangcenter.gov

Great-online.org

BGCA.org (Boys and Girl Club of America)

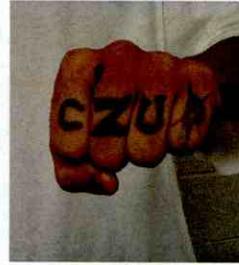
Gripe4rkids.org

<http://co.middlesex.nj.us/prosecutor>

Common Identifiers of a Gang



Crip Color



Crip Tattoo



Latin King Clothing



Latin King Tattoo



Neta Beads



Gangster Disciple Tattoo



Crip Hand Sign



MS -13 Graffiti

conclude that your child is involved in a gang. Instead, you should talk with them to determine the level of gang involvement. **

Common Identifiers of a Gang



Blood Color



Blood Burn Mark



Eighteen Street
Tattoo



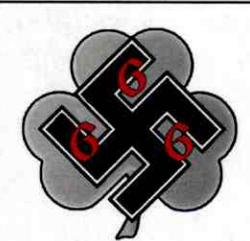
Eighteen Street
Graffiti



Sureno Tattoo



Trinitarios
Colors



White Supremacist



Blood Hand Sign

**** The pictures herein are identifiers that depict gang involvement. If any of these signs are present, you should not automatically**