



PARENTS GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING GANGS

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

GANG UNIT

817-871-8830

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING DISTRICTS

NPD 1 (501 JONES)
817-392-3900 CENTRAL

NPD 2 (1000 MAGNOLIA)
817-871-8885 CENTRAL

NPD 3 (3457 DECATUR)
817-740-2100 NORTH

NPD 4 (7451 N. BEACH)
817-392-4690 NORTH

NPD 5 (5650 E. LANCASTER)
817-392-4800 EAST

NPD 6 (1100 NASHVILLE)
817-871-7100 EAST

NPD 7 (3128 W. BOLT)
817-922-3400 SOUTH

NPD 8 (7650 McCART AVENUE)
817-392-3650 SOUTH

NPD 9 (3525 MARQUITA)
817-392-4740 WEST

NPD 10 (5320 TRAIL LAKE DR)
817-392-4750 WEST

ADDITIONAL NUMBERS

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS
817-834-4711

SAFE CITY COMMISSION
817-885-7774

CRIME STOPPERS
817-469-8477

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Most of us have heard of the proverb, it takes a village to raise a child. The truth is that it takes villages. Every community, neighborhood, township, school, home, and street is representative of a village. Parents, teachers, school officials, ministers, and other citizens are racing to save our children from the ills of society. It is very important that we listen to our children and engage them in positive conversations and activities. There are too many forces that are destructive to the minds of our youth, violence on television, violent video games, and internet predators. Our

children deserve better. Children living in America have a better opportunities and resources than most of the world and have access to free public education. Unfortunately, the U.S. educational system ranks far below other

countries. It is important for parents/guardians to unite forces with their local school districts, school boards, and school superintendents. Together, we can make a difference.



JUST THE FACTS

One of the most troubling issues for a parent is whether or not their child is safe from becoming a member or victim of a gang or gang violence.



The average child watches 8,000 televised murders and 100,000 acts of media violence before the age of 10.

Approximately 20,000 Americans are killed each year, due to handguns.

An average of 2,559 youth were committed to the Texas Youth Commission over the last three years.

Approximately 40% of youth committed to the Texas Youth Commission are known gang members.

Over 1 million youth brought a handgun to school last year.

160,000 children skip school daily, due to fear of attack, peer intimidation, or bullying.

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The best type of glue for a child can be his/her family. Speak with a professional if your family is becoming unglued

GANG IDENTIFIERS

Gang members commonly use the expression “representing”. This term suggests that they want to be different from others. As most youth struggle with their own identity, family issues, and peer pressure, the need to fit in often leads them to behaviors that are criminal and gang related.

Depending upon your city or neighborhood, gang identification may vary. The following identifiers are the most common and may serve as a guide for parents.

IDENTIFIERS

- Self admittance
- Clothing
- Tattoos
- Friends and associates
- Colors
- Criminal behavior
- Hand Signs
- Graffiti



Clothing styles worn by today’s youth may be as symbolic as the styles worn by previous generations but today’s styles are greatly influenced by the hip-hop culture. Any display of the identifiers mentioned in combination should draw concern of parents.

If the behaviors do not coincide with your child’s personality or upbringing, you should **INVESTIGATE!**

Gangs continue to be a serious problem in today’s society. There are no easy answers.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Many schools across the country have adopted a zero tolerance policy towards gangs.

The Fort Worth Police Department and FWISD operate under a Zero Tolerance policy.

Students can be suspended or expelled from school for displaying a gang hand sign or bullying others into a gang.

Fighting during or after school hours, even off school property, is subject to severe disciplinary action by the school district and your local police.

Females can be just as violent as their male friends

Please check with your local school district on their policy towards gangs.



If it looks like a clown, then it must be a clown!



Graffiti is a costly expense to our community. Please report any graffiti to your local police or school official.

WHAT IS GRAFFITI

Marking, inscriptions, slogans, drawing, or paintings on the property of others.

This offense can be classified as a State Jail Felony, punishable by up to 2 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The City of Fort Worth spent over \$541,000 for the removal of graffiti in 2008.

Business owners may be fined if they refuse to remove graffiti in a timely manner.

The City of Fort Worth has a paint bank, which allows citizens access to free paint, in order to remove unwanted graffiti from their properties.

Paint Bank (817) 212-2700

