

Things You Can Do to Stop Gang Crime in Your Neighborhood

1. Report Gang Activity to the Police. In an emergency call 911. Otherwise, if you have information regarding gang activity you can call the Fort Worth Police Department Gang Unit directly at 817-871-8830. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 817-469-tips (8477) or submit a tip on-line at www.469tips.com. Remember, Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for information that solves gang crimes.

Highlight Info: Crime Stoppers tips are made anonymously so you don't have to fear retaliation from gang members!

2. Keep Your Kids Busy and Keep Them At Home During Late-Night Hours. Gang crime increases in summer months when kids are out of school with lots of time on their hands. If you keep your kids busy with activities like athletic leagues, church camps, community center programs, or summer jobs they will be more likely to stay safe. For information on summer activities call the Fort Worth Parks Department at 817-871-5100 or the Boys & Girls Club at 817-834-4711. Also, most violent gang crime occurs after dark. Make sure your kids are home before 10:00 p.m.

Highlight Info: Educate yourself on signs of gang activity and talk to your kids about the dangers of gang-involvement.

3. Be Aware! Signs of gang membership and activity include:

- Common dress/colors within a group
- Graffiti
- Common tattoos within a group
- Use of hand signs
- Graffiti type artwork in notebooks or on walls
- Refers to friends as "family"

Highlight info: Pay attention to behavioral changes in kids such as the way they dress and the friends they hang out with.

4. Help Keep Your Neighborhood Clean and Free of Gang Graffiti. Gang graffiti lowers property value and encourages other types of crime. Getting rid of graffiti sends the message that gang crime won't be tolerated in your neighborhood. To report graffiti in your neighborhood call 817-335-4222. To arrange for free assistance with removing graffiti, or to volunteer to help remove graffiti in Fort Worth, call 817-212-2700.

Highlight info: Did you know owners of vandalized property can receive free paint to help get rid of graffiti? For information call 817-212-2700.

5. Get to Know the Police Officers In Your Neighborhood. Maintain a relationship with your neighborhood police officers and participate in neighborhood watch programs. For information regarding Fort Worth crime prevention programs in your area call:

North Division 817-740-2118

West Division 817-871-5011

South Division 817-922-3418

East Division 817-922-3468