

Questions and Answers

□ **What Is Graffiti?**

It is one possible indication of gang activity in your area. Through graffiti, gangs are giving notice of their presence and activity. Graffiti is how gangs communicate and tell others that the area is visited by a particular gang.

□ **What should I do if I see Graffiti?**

Notify your local law enforcement agency so that they can take a report and photograph the graffiti. This enables law enforcement to monitor gang graffiti.

□ **What should I do if I think my child is in a gang or about to join a gang? What if my child is the victim of gang intimidation?**

Notify your local law enforcement agency or the Washington County Sheriff's Office Interagency Gang Enforcement Team, or the Washington County Juvenile Department.



Colors and Symbols

Important Numbers

Non-Emergency Line: 503-629-0111

Interagency Gang Enforcement Team:
503-846-2700

Washington County Juvenile Department:
503-846-8861



WASHINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

222 N. First Ave. MS 47
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Phone: 503-846-8861
Fax: 503-846-8886

GANG AWARENESS

What You Need To Know



Gang Graffiti

WASHINGTON COUNTY
JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

Seize The Solution

The Washington County Juvenile Department works with and manages cases of high-risk, gang-involved youth that have been referred for criminal charges. We provide interventions and sanctions with these youth and we work collaboratively with schools, community agencies and local law enforcement agencies when dealing with gang-involved youth. We have provided educational based presentations to youth explaining the Juvenile Justice System and consequences such as Measure 11, a mandatory minimum sentencing law.



We also have counselors who collaborate with the Washington County Sheriff's Office and local schools to provide a detailed presentation on gangs in our community. The types of audiences that we focus on are parents, schools, community, high crime areas/neighborhoods, counselors, and youth.

Hand Signs

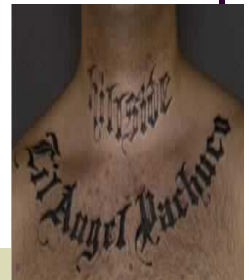
Why Do Kids Join a Gang?

1. **Identity or Recognition** - Being part of a gang allows members to achieve a level of status they feel they cannot achieve outside the gang's culture.
2. **Protection** – Kids join the gang because they live in a gang area and are subject to violence by rival gangs. Kids join in an attempt to obtain safety from this violence.
3. **Fellowship and Brotherhood** – The gang functions as an extension of, or substitute for, the family and may provide companionship lacking in the home environment.
4. **Intimidation** – Some members may be forced into joining by peer groups. Intimidation techniques range from extorting lunch money to physical assault.



Signs Your Child May Be In A Gang

- Change in life long friends
- Change in style of clothing
- Negative contact with people or authority
- Being secretive from family and friends
- Lack of interest in family/sports/ community activities
- Fear of going to school or lack of interest in getting an education
- Drug or alcohol use
- Poor school performance



Gang Tattoos

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