**Definition of a Gang**
Three or more people with common interests, bonds, & activities characterized by criminal or delinquent conduct engaged in collectively or individually.

**Did You Know?**
The majority of gang affiliates/members in our community are adults (18 years of age and older). They constitute about 89% of the total gang population identified in the Colorado Springs area. Juveniles (under the age of 18) hold approximately 11% of the gang affiliation/membership.

*Of that 11% :*
Males constitute approximately 90% of the juveniles in gangs, while females make up about 10%.

**Identifying Gang Behavior**
In terms of identifying someone who is claiming a particular gang affiliation, it is very important to look for multiple signs. A single sign, in isolation, is often not a credible way to identify gang affiliation accurately. However, a combination of identifiers may indicate the need to seek support for the child who may be gang involved.

---

### Where to Look for Signs of Gang Involvement:
- **CLOTHING** (worn in an unusual way, colors, logos, numbers, symbols, initials)
  - hats, wrist bands, neck bands, shirts, belts, buckles, lanyards, dew rags, pants, shoes, shoe laces, shoe tongues
- **JEWELRY**
  - symbols, initials, logos
- **TATTOOS**
  - names, symbols, numbers, abbreviations
- **GRAFFITI**
  - names, symbols, colors, numbers, abbreviations, area codes

### Other Gang Identifiers
- Whistles
- Gestures
- Hand Signs
- Staring (Mad Doggin’)

---

### GANG VS TAGGER GRAFFITI

**GANG GRAFFITI:**
- TERRITORIAL
- OFTEN THREATENING MESSAGE
- NOT USUALLY ARTISTIC
- IDENTIFIES:
  - GANG NAME
  - GANG SET
  - STREET NAME

**TAGGER GRAFFITI:**
- NOT USUALLY TERRITORIAL
- NOT USUALLY A THREATENING MESSAGE
- USUALLY ARTISTIC
- IDENTIFIES:
  - TAGGER CREW
  - STREET NAME

---

### What Parents Should Know
Why do kids join gangs?

- For adventure & excitement
- For a sense of belonging and attachment
- To gain respect or to attract girl/boy friends
- To feel powerful
- For monetary gain & to escape poverty
- To retaliate against home or society
- To emulate family members
**Statistics**
- 90% of gang members will be arrested by the age of 18
- 75% of gang members will be arrested twice by the age of 18
- 95% will not finish high school
- 60% will be dead or in prison by the age of 20

**Did You Know?**

**Gang names:**
1. Crip
2. Blood
3. Hispanic
4. Folk
5. People
6. White Supremacist
7. Tagger

**Gang Sets:**
These typically are the “neighborhoods” that the gang members are currently living in, or a neighborhood they lived in prior to moving here.

**Street Names:**
Usually a “nick name” given to a gang member representing/identifying an aspect (often negative) of the members appearance, personality, or physical/mental capabilities/limitations.

**Where to Look for Signs of Gang Involvement:**
- Surenos 13 belt buckle
- Norteno 14 in Roman Numerals
- Clothing can be one identifier of gang affiliation. Look for multiple identifiers.

**Gang Graffiti:** Often seen on student notebooks

**Tagger Graffiti:** Also found on student notebooks

**What Parents Should Know**
Protect children from gang influence:
- Spend time with your children
- Supervise their activities
- Help them get involved in after school activities/sports
- Talk about values/good decision making
- Teach what to do if approached by gang member
- Be on lookout for signs of gang involvement
- Notice patterns/get help

**Tattoos:**
May be located anywhere on the body.

**Statistics**
- 90% of gang members will be arrested by the age of 18
- 75% of gang members will be arrested twice by the age of 18
- 95% will not finish high school
- 60% will be dead or in prison by the age of 20

**Gang Name:** SUR 13
**Neighborhood:** SPMV
**Street Name:** SMILEY
**Signs of Possible Pre-Gang Behavior:**

*look for multiple signs*

- Drawing symbols or strange words on notebooks, clothing, or walls of bedroom
- Uses spray cans or felt markers to mark on others’ property
- Stays out after being asked to be home at a certain time
- Uses an unfamiliar nickname for self
- Strange words in their vocabulary
- Unexplained possessions or money
- Carrying items that could be used as a weapon
- Tattoos on body

**What Parents Should Know**

**Discourage Children From Joining Gangs:**

- Encourage your children to participate in supervised, responsible activities to fill their free time.
- Know where your children are and who they are spending time with.
- Teach children acceptable and responsible behavior.
- Encourage children to talk about what is going on in their lives at school & in the community.
- Develop a no-tolerance policy for gang clothing, gang writing, or hanging out with gang members.
- Be a positive active role model.
IDENTIFIERS OF POSSIBLE DRUG INVOLVEMENT BY STUDENTS

School backpack with dollar sign attached

JEWELRY TO WATCH FOR:

Rings being worn by some students

INSANE CLOWN POSSE AFFILIATION

ICP is a rock band who’s music is promoted by Psychopathic Records & has over one million followers who call themselves Juggalos. Joe Bruce gave Insane Clown Posse its name, and the band members began developing their “wicked clown” alter egos soon after. They also began painting their faces like clowns which became their trademark.

Things to look for that show possible affiliation with ICP, their music, and the group’s message:

Self drawn tattoo & notebook graffiti

ICP Clown T-Shirt

Another version of the ICP logo on a sweat shirt

Necklace with dollar sign ($)

Dollar sign earrings

Barbed wire necklace

Die with “SIX” showing (often used as one identifier for Folk gang affiliation)

“Dollar Bills” dew rag

Spiked bracelet

Marijuana leaf attached to purse
In many parts of the country, race, nationality, and gender determine which gang can be joined. In Colorado Springs, gangs are hybrid in nature. Members are jumped into gangs based on their willingness to perform “required” gang related activities, rather than their race, nationality, or gender.

FOLK GANG

- CHICAGO BASED
- HIGHLY ORGANIZED
- COLORS (BLACK & BLUE)
- IDENTIFY WITH NUMBER SIX (6)

RIGHT SIDE RULE

Earrings: In “right” ear only

Hats: Tipped to the “right”

Glove: On “right” hand

Belt buckles: Shifted to the “right” on hips

Bandanas: Hanging from “right” pocket or tied around right leg

Pant leg: “Right” pant leg pulled up

Shirt sleeve: “Right” sleeve rolled up

Shoe tongue: Tongue of “right” shoe up

Shoe laces: “Right” shoe laced up; left shoe laced 1/2 way

FOLK GRAFFITI

BGD = BLACK GANGSTER DISCIPLE

PITCHFORK (“Upright” is a Folk Symbol)

B.O.S. = BROTHERS OF THE STRUGGLE

187 = HOMICIDE CODE

STAFF/CANE (Upside Down) = DIS’ ON “PEOPLE” (Rival Gang)

HEART = HEART OF THE FOLK NATION

WINGS = SPREADING OF THE NATION

HORNS = DEFENSE OF THE NATION (Replaced with Upright Pitch Forks above)

5 POINTED CROWN (Upside Down) = Dis’ on Rival (People) Gang

BACKWARD SWASTIKA (Folk Symbol)

LA RAZA (Folk Set)

HEART = The Heart of the Nation

HORNS = The Defense of the Nation

UPRIGHT PITCHFORKS (Folk Symbols)

MLD = MANIC LATIN DISCIPLES (Folk Set)

ALSO IDENTIFY WITH:

- Six Point Crown
- Upside Down 5 as a “Disrespect” (referred to as “dis”) on Rival (People) Gang
- 187 (California’s Homicide Code)
- Rabbit’s Head With One Ear Bent
In many parts of the country, race, nationality, and gender determine which gang can be joined. In Colorado Springs, gangs are hybrid in nature. Members are jumped into gangs based on their willingness to perform “required” gang related activities, rather than their race, nationality, or gender.

**PEOPLE GANG**
- **CHICAGO BASED**
- **HIGHLY ORGANIZED**
- **COLORS (BLACK & Yellow or Gold)**
- **IDENTIFY WITH NUMBER FIVE (5)**

**LEFT SIDE RULE**
- **Earrings:** In “Left” ear only
- **Hats:** Tipped to the “Left”
- **Glove:** On “Left” hand
- **Belt buckles:** Shifted to the “Left” on hips
- **Bandanas:** Hanging from “Left” pocket or tied around “Left” leg
- **Pant leg:** “Left” pant leg pulled up
- **Shirt sleeve:** “Left” sleeve rolled up
- **Shoe tongue:** Tongue of “Left” shoe up
- **Shoe laces:** “Left” shoe laced up; right shoe laced 1/2 way

**PEOPLE GRAFFITI**
- **LKN= LATIN KING NATION (People Set)**
- **UPSIDE DOWN PITCHFORKS = Dis’ on Rival Gang (Folk)**
- **FIVE POINT CROWN (People Symbol)**
- **DK= Disciple (Folk) Killa**
- **TORN 6 POINT STAR & UPSIDE DOWN CROWN= Dis’ on Folk Gang**

**ALSO IDENTIFY WITH:**
- **Five Point Crown**
- **Upside Down 6 to “Disrespect” (“Dis”) Rival (Folk) Gang**
- **187 (California’s Homicide Code)**
- **Rabbit’s Head (both ears up)**
- **Dice with Five Appearing on Face**
- **Pyramid**
- **Staff/Cane**

---

**$=** The use of the dollar sign in graffiti implies the use, distribution/sale, and/or the manufacturing of drugs by the person and/or the gang.

**UPSIDE DOWN PITCHFORKS= Dis’ on Folk Gang by People Gang**

**UPRIGHT STAFF/CANE = (People Symbol)**
In many parts of the country, race, nationality, and gender determine which gang can be joined. In Colorado Springs, gangs are hybrid in nature. Members are jumped into gangs based on their willingness to perform “required” gang related activities, rather than their race, nationality, or gender.

**CRIP GANG**
- LOS ANGELES BASED
- HIGHLY ORGANIZED
- COLORS (blue or purple)
- IDENTIFY WITH NUMBERS:
  187 (Homicide Code in California)
  3-3 (Tre-Tre Crip)
  XXX= Rollin’ 30’s Crip

**Rivals:**
- Blood Gang
- Anyone aligned with Bloods

**Crip Graffiti**
- “B.K.” (Blood Killa)
  (found in middle school restroom)
- “Slob” (dis’ on the Blood Gang)
- XXX = Rollin’ 30’s Crip Gang
- Sleepy = street name
- Dollar sign in street name = indicates drug involvement (buying, selling, using, and/or manufacturing of drugs.)

Jewelry to watch for when concerned about possible gang involvement:

**L.A.** = Los Angeles (home base for the Crip Gang)

(This by itself does not indicate gang affiliation, however a closer look at how this student dresses, who he’s hanging with, graffiti on his notebooks, tattoos, and if he’s claiming a particular gang or street name can be important information for insuring the safety of all students.)
In many parts of the country, race, nationality, and gender determine which gang can be joined. In Colorado Springs, gangs are hybrid in nature. Members are jumped into gangs based on their willingness to perform “required” gang related activities, rather than their race, nationality, or gender.

**BLOOD GANG**
- LOS ANGELES BASED
- HIGHLY ORGANIZED
- COLORS (red or green)
- IDENTIFY WITH NUMBERS:
  - 213 (Area Code for L.A.)
  - 187 (Homicide Code in California)
  - 45 (Blood Set)
  - 3-11 (crip killa)

**Blood Gang Rivals:**
- Crip Gang
- Any gang aligned with Crips

**Blood Graffiti**

**Los Angeles = Home Base for Bloods**
- 213 = Area Code for L.A. (bottom right of sweatshirt)

**187 = (California’s Homicide Code)**
- BHW = West Side Hustler Blood (Blood Gang Set)

**Blood hand sign in green paint:**
- C= Crip
- K= Killa

**NHB = Neighborhood Blood Gang (Blood Gang Set)**

**Shoes with Red Laces**

Possible gang affiliation if a student is dressing entirely in red on a regular basis, and refuses to wear blue, or use the color blue for any reason.

“Crab” (dis’ on the Crip Gang)

Multiple choice test given to Blood Gang member. Every time he chose the answer “C”, he marked it with an “x” to disrespect rival Crip Gang members.

“C.K.”= Crip Killa
- PIRU = Blood Gang Set

**Graffiti located in a drainage ditch near a middle school**

Possible gang affiliation if a student is dressing entirely in red on a regular basis, and refuses to wear blue, or use the color blue for any reason.
In many parts of the country, race, nationality, and gender determine which gang can be joined. In Colorado Springs, gangs are hybrid in nature. Members are jumped into gangs based on their willingness to perform “required” gang related activities, rather than their race, nationality, or gender.

**HISPANIC GANGS**
- **Norteno=Northern California**
  - Color: Red
  - Number: 14; XIV
- **Sureno= Southern California**
  - Color: Blue
  - Number: 13; XIII
- **Area Codes used in graffiti to claim home town allegiance:**
  213– Los Angeles
  714-Anaheim
  805-Bakersfield/Santa Barbara
  818-Glendale
  909-San Bernardino
- **Tattoos:**
  - 3 dots= Mi Vida Loca (my crazy life)
  - Pachucos Cross
  - Tear Drop =may indicate prison time served, and/or being the “shooter” in a drive-by shooting
  - Happy/Sad Faces (play now; pay later)

**HISPANIC GANG RIVALS:**
“NORTENO VS. SURENO”

Bakersfield, California is the “territorial line” between northern California (Norteno Gang), and southern California (Sureno Gang). Gang wars can also occur between any gang (or gang set) that is aligned with a rival gang.

**IDENTIFYING GANG BEHAVIOR**

In terms of identifying someone who is claiming a particular gang affiliation, it is very important to look for multiple signs. A single sign, in isolation, is often not a credible way to identify gang affiliation accurately. However, a combination of identifiers may indicate the need to seek support the child who may be gang involved.

**HISPANIC GANG GRAFFITI**

- **13th letter of the alphabet is “M”**
  The number “13” is used by Hispanic gang members to identify with the terms, “Mexican and marijuana”. Often times indicates gang affiliation and drug involvement.

- **Belt buckle with the number “13” on it.**

- **“S” on a belt buckle may represent “Surenos Gang” affiliation.**

- **Look under the bill of hats for information on gang involvement.**

- **“14” or XIV in clothing or graffiti may indicate Norteno Gang affiliation.**
In many parts of the country, race, nationality, and gender determine which gang can be joined. In Colorado Springs, gangs are hybrid in nature. Members are jumped into gangs based on their willingness to perform “required” gang related activities, rather than their race, nationality, or gender.

**GOTHICS**
- Dress totally in black
- Use make-up to mimic that of Marilyn Manson
- Self mutilate
- Multiple piercing of the nose, tongue, eyebrows, ears, belly button, lip, and chin
- Die hair in multiple colors or jet black
- Carry around metal lunch boxes
- Draw occult symbols & use numbers 666 & 1394 (acid) in graffiti
- Carry razor blades for blood letting and drinking
- Attend rave parties
- Ecstasy & acid are drugs of choice

**STRAIGHT-EDGE**
- Beliefs:
  - Abstain from the use of:
    - tobacco
    - alcohol
    - drugs
    - premarital sex

(The problem lies when they see others involving themselves with the above activities Straight Edge members have been known to try to force their beliefs on others by using violence.)

- Tattoo themselves with the letter “X”
- Body Piercing is also popular: nose, tongue, eyebrows, ears, belly button, lip, and chin
- Shaved heads are common
- Baggy clothes
- May ID themselves as Skateboarders
- Align themselves with
  - animal activists
  - animal liberation front
  - coalition to abolish fur traders

Vegans: Vegetarians—typically will not eat animal bi-products
Becans: Often times the militant side of Straight-Edge

**VAMPIRES**
- Heavy into the Occult and Satanism
- Usually low self esteem
- Problems in school (attendance & discipline)
- Dress in black clothing
- Girls use white make-up
- Fascinated with death
- Vampires believe they are immortal and can live for 300 years
- To become a vampire one must be bitten by another vampire. The drinking of each other’s blood is part of the ritual. Vampires have no fear of Aids as they believe they are immortal so therefore they cannot die.
- They believe the only way to kill a vampire is to decapitate them

**Identifying Gang Behavior**

In terms of identifying someone who is claiming a particular gang affiliation, it is very important to look for multiple signs. A single sign, in isolation, is often not a credible way to identify gang affiliation accurately. However, a combination of identifiers may indicate the need to seek support the child who may be gang involved.
In many parts of the country, race, nationality, and gender determine which gang can be joined. In Colorado Springs, gangs are hybrid in nature. Members are jumped into gangs based on their willingness to perform “required” gang related activities, rather than their race, nationality, or gender.

OVERVIEW OF THINGS TO BE AWARE OF NOW THAT SCHOOLS ARE BACK IN SESSION

Numbers used to identify gang and/or drug affiliation:

5 = People Gang
6 = Folk Gang
13, X3, XIII= Surenos (southern California)
14, XIV = Norteno (northern California)
666= Satanic Gang
187 = Homicide code in California
45 Blood Set
3-11 Crip Killa
420= Referencing “time to do drugs”
81st = Gang Set
18th = Gang Set
XXX, 30, Gang Set
719, 213, 714, 805, 818, 909 = Area codes where gang members are claiming “home town” affiliation
1394 = Acid

S = referencing drugs (sales/use)
SUR= Surenos
THREE DOTS= Mi Vida Loca
TEAR DROP= Prison time/Drive by shooter
WS= West Side
SS= South Side
ES= East Side
NS= North Side
CROWNS= Gang affiliation (5 point & 6 point)
BGD= Black Gangster Disciples
BOS= Brother’s of the Struggle
PITCHFORKS= Folk Symbol
CANE/STAFF= People Symbol
LA= Los Angeles (area code 213)
NHB= Neighborhood Blood
NORTE-NORTENO =Gang Name
SURENO= Gang Name
HAPPY/SAD FACES= Play now; Pay later
CRAB= Slang put down for Crip member (Blood term)
SLOB= Slang put down for Blood member (Crip term)

SYMBOLS used to identify gang and/or drug affiliation:

ICP= Insane Clown Posse
CK =Crip Killa (Blood term)
BK= Blood Killa (Crip term)

COLORS (discussed in past newsletters)

CLOTHING
- dew rags
- lanyards
- shirts with any of the gang symbols, gang hand signs, gang numbers (13/14/187)
- 1/2 gloves
- shoelaces/red/blue
- wrist bands with gang references
- shoes with anarchy symbols or gang symbols
- hats with gang symbols under bill, or tipped right or left
- hair nets
- pant legs (one up & one down)
- belts with gang numbers/letters

JEWELRY
- with gang symbols/numbers
- look for dice (5 dots or 6 dots)
- with satanic symbols
- crowns (5 or 6 points)

COMBS
- if left in hair after combing is often linked to gang affiliation

GRAFFITI
- on notebooks
- on school papers
- on their arms & hands
- in restrooms
- on desks/chairs

CELL PHONES & PAGERS
- often used as a way to connect to drug sales/buys

Identifying Gang Behavior

In terms of identifying someone who is claiming a particular gang affiliation, it is very important to look for multiple signs. A single sign, in isolation, is often not a credible way to identify gang affiliation accurately. However, a combination of identifiers may indicate the need to seek support the child who may be gang involved.
HOW GANGS AFFECT OUR COMMUNITY

GANG GRAFFITI

VS.

TAGGER GRAFFITI

GANG GRAFFITI

• TERRITORIAL
• OFTEN THREATENING MESSAGE
• NOT USUALLY ARTISTIC
• IDENTIFIES:
  • GANG NAME (SUR 13)
  • GANG SET (SPMV)
  • STREET NAME (SMILEY)

TAGGER GRAFFITI

• NOT USUALLY TERRITORIAL
• NOT USUALLY A THREATENING MESSAGE
• USUALLY ARTISTIC
• IDENTIFIES:
  • TAGGER CREW (DISPERS)
    (MEANING DISPERS)
  • STREET NAME (SIGNED IN LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER)

TAGGERS

• Usually Male
• Typically 11-25 Y.O.A.
• All ethnic & economic backgrounds
• Wear dark clothing when tagging at night
• Wear oversized clothes and back packs to conceal graffiti items
• Use numbers: 24-7-365
  2DS= Tagger Gang Name
  187 = Homicide Code in California
  4:20, = referencing “time to do drugs”
  3:11 = Crip Killa)
  3:16, (Stone Cold Steve Austin) Book of John, Chapter 3 Verse 16
• Loosely organized
• Goal is fame & recognition
• Prefer late night and early A.M. hours
• Pecking order is determined by artistic ability:
  —Writers: basic scrawling
  —Piecers: Mural drawers
  —“In the Heavens”= graffiti drawn in dangerous places
    (overpasses, billboards, building roof tops)

“Piecer Graffiti”

“In the Heavens” Graffiti
Aluminum Roof Top (below)

Regardless of how pretty the art work, it constitutes Criminal Mischief
when applied to any surface without permission.

“Writer Graffiti” (above)
(Crew Name is TAJ & Area Code of Home Town —Home Grown Taggers)

Roll Call of Crew Members in TAJ
Removable gold covers for your teeth are known as "grills." These are kind-of-like a car grill for your mouth. The grills are often used by rappers, but are now increasing in popularity among teens.

These can be made for any number of teeth, or for the entire mouth. The snap-on grills are sometimes solid, or they may be "open-faced" with cut-outs to show the natural teeth. Fangs are popular, and so is the "iced out" look -- a grill with tiny diamonds.

Words or symbols referencing gang affiliation are often etched or carved into their caps, as well as individual initials, street names, stars, or their gang/set name.

**SIX POINT GRILL**

The Folk gang uses the number 6 as a symbol to identify their gang. The top six teeth are covered with this particular grill.

**Diamond Grill with Blue Accent**

Folk, Crip, & Surenos gangs all identify with the color blue. This could be one indicator of gang involvement. Look for other identifiers to verify gang affiliation, and to determine which gang is being claimed.

**HAIR PICKS**

“Picks” are often worn in the hair to show gang affiliation. The color of the pick, and location of the pick in the hair can help determine which gang a student is claiming.

**ROSARY or COLORED BEADS**

The use of colored beads by gang members is also increasing in popularity. The color and number of beads used, depends on which gang is being claimed.

The beads can be used as a necklace, bracelet, worn in shoelaces, made into a key chain, or worn as accents in the hair. Colored rubber bands are also worn in the hair, or on the wrists to show gang membership.

The beads on a necklace or bracelet may alternate in color. The Folk gang, for instance, may alternate the color of every sixth bead as they identify with the number 6. Blue would most likely be the primary color. The People gang may alternate the color of every fifth bead since they identify with the number 5. The Surenos gang may have a total of 13 beads or alternate colors every 13th bead, as they identify with the number 13. Again, the primary color would most likely be blue.
**Definition of a Gang:**
Three or more people with common interests, bonds, & activities, characterized by criminal or delinquent conduct, engaged in collectively or individually.

**Occult Gangs**

- **Satanism**
  - Symbols used: snakes, candles, chalices, swords, daggers, black robes, inverted pentagrams, 666, triangles, and the Baphomet or “goat’s head”.
  - Satanic Groups:
    - Dabblers
    - Religious Satanists
    - Self Styled
    - Generational

- **Spiritual-Cultural Religions**
  - Formed from Non-Christian religions merging with Catholicism
  - Participate in animal or fowl “blood-sacrifices” (they sacrifice chickens, small birds, and goats)
  - Don’t sacrifice dogs, cats, or people

  Baphomet (goat’s head)
  - Satanism incorporates a symbolic form of human sacrifice

  4 Satanic Groups:
  - Dabblers
  - Religious Satanists
  - Self Styled
  - Generational

**Occult Groups**
(These groups do not meet the criteria to be considered a gang)

- **Paganism**
  - Earliest Earth-Based Religion
  - Believe everything on Earth has a force to it: flowers, water, etc.
  - If you become one with this life force, you can become God-like
  - No human or animal sacrifices
  - Ceremonies were to influence nature to help crops grow

- **Witchcraft (Wicca)**
  - Nature-Based
  - Use magic to control or change reality
  - White witches practice the craft for the good of all
  - Black witches practice evil magic for their own purposes
  - Often work in professional fields (doctors, teachers, lawyers, etc.)
  - Male counterpart represents the horned God (Warlocks)

  Law Abiding – Not considered a gang, as they do not meet the criteria to be considered a gang.
**Tattoos**

A tattoo is any mark made by inserting pigment into the skin. This is done for many different and very personal reasons. Tattoos are, often times, applied to show affiliation with a particular group/gang, for religious purposes, sometimes for decoration, to show loyalty, to identify where the student has been or what they have participated in, and/or to identify personal values that they embrace. Tattoos, whether applied professionally or personally, should be recognized and used as a tool understand:

- what the student’s intended message is, and
- if it’s a safe message for the student to be displaying on his/her body

**Recognizing Tattoos**

Spider Web: Indicates time served in prison

“Chicano” (below the spider web)

“Hatchet Man” : Often used to show gang affiliation with the “Insane Clown Posse” (self inflicted tattoo)

“Mi Vida Loco” = My Crazy Life

Happy/Sad Faces= Play Now; Pay Later

X= 10 (left arm) + 3 (right arm) = 13

# 13= Surenos /“Southern California”

This student was claiming the “Gothic” gang. He drew Anarchy symbols on himself & his clothing to indicate his gang was taking over all other forms of authority.

Gang member with tattoo behind left ear:

“Trust No Man” Tattoo

Sean= Real Name

“Shaggy”= Street Name

“Lune”= Street Name

Three Dots= “Mi Vida Loco” ( My Crazy Life )

NHB= Neighborhood Blood Gang

TAJ= C/S neighborhood set of the Insane Posse Gang (Thug A.. Juggalos)

719= Area Code indicates location of gang allegiance

100%= “Down” for the gang
One of the earliest signs of gang affiliation is graffiti on student notebooks.

**South Side Sureno 13**

- **OG = Original Gangster**
- **13 = (stands for Sureno or Southern California)**
- **Gang: Sureno**
- **Neighborhood: NPV**
- **Street Names of members referred to as a “roll call” (Mousie, Nasty, Sad Girl)**

**Blood member crossing out all letter C’s on a test to disrespect Crip gang**

**CRAB: Slang name used by Blood gang to disrespect the Crip gang**

**Spider Webs: Used by gang members to indicate having served jail time**

**Spidey Webs: Used by gang members to indicate having served jail time**

- **Gang Name: Bloods**
- **Set: Neighborhood Bloods (NHB)**
- **Street Name: Lune’**
- **Three Dots: Mi Vida Loca/Loco (my crazy life)**

**Gang: Crip**
- **Neighborhood: South Side Hoover Crip**
- **Street Names: Casper & Lazy**
- **$8 = South Side and drug involvement**

**Gang: Sureno 13**
- **Street Names: Casper & Lazy**
- **$8 = South Side and drug involvement**

**Gang Name: Norteno 14 (Northern California)**
- **Neighborhood: NSL**
- **Street Name: Termite**

**Statistical Analysis**

- **35% of students studied**
- **20% of students interviewed**
- **15% of students observed**

**Conclusion**

Gang activities and graffiti have a significant impact on the daily lives of students. The use of slang names and hand signs indicate the presence of gangs in the community. The presence of graffiti and street names further reinforces the sense of belonging and affiliation among gang members. The use of Spider Webs and other symbols helps to identify gang members who have served time in jail. The statistical analysis shows that a majority of students are affected by these activities. The conclusion is that gangs have a negative impact on the community and need to be addressed through education and intervention programs.
**This Month’s Newsletter:**

I have had numerous phone calls from concerned parents, grandparents, and group homes asking for information on what to look for in their children’s behavior that might indicate gang affiliation. I have put together some highlights from past newsletters of what to look for in pre-gang behavior, and some recommended responses to discourage gang involvement.

---

**Who Gets Jumped into Which Gangs?**

In many parts of the country, race, nationality, and gender determine which gang can be joined. In Colorado Springs, gangs are hybrid in nature. Members are jumped into gangs based on their willingness to perform “required” gang related activities, rather than their race, nationality, or gender.

---

**Identifying Gang Behavior**

In terms of identifying someone who is claiming a particular gang affiliation, it is very important to look for multiple signs. A single sign, in isolation, is often not a credible way to identify gang affiliation accurately. However, a combination of identifiers may indicate the need to seek support the child who may be gang involved.

---

**Signs of Possible Pre-Gang Behavior:**

(look for multiple signs)

- Sudden change in friendships
- Parents uneasy around new friends
- Attitude change-uninterested in family activities and values
- Spending more time alone/withdrawal
- Poor grades at school - cutting classes
- Angry or bullying attitude
- Impatient, intolerant, aggressive
- Disrespectful and demanding
- Resents authority figures
- In trouble with the police
- Dressing regularly in a particular color
- Radical body piercing, hair styles, jewelry, or clothing
- Drawing symbols or strange words on notebooks, clothing, or walls of bedroom
- Uses spray cans or felt markers to mark on others’ property
- Stays out after being asked to be home at a certain time
- Uses an unfamiliar nickname for self
- Strange words in their vocabulary
- Unexplained possessions or money
- Carrying items that could be used as a weapon

---

**What Parents Should Know**

**Discourage Children From Joining Gangs:**

- Encourage your children to participate in supervised, responsible activities to fill their free time.
- Know where your children are and who they are spending time with.
- Teach children acceptable and responsible behavior.
- Encourage children to talk about what is going on in their lives at school & in the community.
- Develop a no-tolerance policy for gang clothing, gang writing, or hanging out with gang members.
- Be a positive active role model.

**Why Do Children Join Gangs?**

- For adventure and excitement
- For a sense of belonging and attachment
- To gain respect or to attract girl/boy friends
- To feel powerful
- For monetary gain and/or to escape poverty
- To retaliate against home and/or society
- To emulate family members
**DEFINITION OF A GANG**

Three or more people with common interests, bonds, & activities characterized by criminal or delinquent conduct, engaged in collectively or individually.

**INSANE CLOWN POSSE (ICP) “GAN**G”

The gang named “Insane Clown Posse” stems from a rock band who’s music is promoted by Psychopathic Records. It has over one million followers who call themselves Juggalos & Juggalettes. Joe Bruce (“Violent J”) gave Insane Clown Posse its name, and the band members began developing their “wicked clown” alter egos soon after. They also began painting their faces like clowns which became their trademark. They usually wear black or white clown-like “eye” make-up and often dress in black. Juggalos are people who have shared similar, hurtful, experiences such as being chosen last for team sports, who have had abusive parents, who haven’t had the necessary supports to grow successfully in life, who have not had others to turn to, and/or who feel they have been shunned by society. They refuse to conform to the mainstream.

One Juggalo states, “To me this Juggaloism means to be with people who are like you, and people that understand you. We are the freaks, thugs, scrubs, and generally the people you don’t see yourself fit to talk with. Another Juggalo says, “Juggalos are probably the most culturally diverse, self-expressive, unique, and creative people I know. Everyone is on an even level because we all grew up the same way and harnessed the same beliefs and ideas of life. There is no such thing as a hierarchy in this society, which we truly believe to be Utopia.”

---

**Glossary of ICP Terms**

- ABK: anybody Killa
- Down: determined to be a Juggalo
- Front: pretend to be what you aren’t
- Grill: teeth
- Juggaloco: insane Juggalo
- Juggaloism: a true Juggalo living by the hatchet
- ‘Lette: short for Juggalette (F)
- ‘Lo: short for Juggalo (M)
- MCL: Much Clown Love
- Nugbone: your neck
- Nugget: your head
- Scrub: outcast or poor person
- Skrilla: money
- Stale: uncool
- Step: confrontation
- Wicked Clowns: nickname for ICP
**Signs of Possible Drug Involvement**

Green “dollar bill” (in any denomination) on above dew rag and t-shirt indicates possible exchange of money for drugs. Marijuana leaf is also used as a symbol of drug involvement.

Dollar sign jewelry worn around the neck, in the ears, or anywhere else on the body suggests drug involvement. The dollar sign patch on above backpack is another way to advertise accessibility to and/or use of drugs.

**Drug Paraphernalia**

Baggies full of drugs are often hidden in lock boxes along with the money used for the exchange.

Look for lighters and homemade pipes on suspected drug users.

**Drug Related Graffiti**

4:20 is used as a symbol to indicate, “time to do drugs”.

The letter “S” turned into a dollar sign on any surface is used to indicate drug involvement.

Marijuana leaf drawn in graffiti shows drug involvement. (selling, using, and/or manufacturing of drugs.)

Homemade wooden & metal marijuana pipes.
MARA SALVATRUCHA MS-13

- Mara: slang for mob or group
- Salva: referencing El Salvador
- Trucha: slang for “beware”
- Originally formed by Salvadoran immigrants who came to the U.S. during El Salvador’s civil war in the 1980’s
  - Approximately 10,000 U.S. members, located in 33 states, where the majority of the members are located in California, Virginia and New York
  - Often have elaborate body art or tattoos with SUR 13, the letters M, MS, and/or words “Salvadoran Pride”
  - MS-13’s 3-dot tattoo represents jail, hospital, & death
- Criminal activities include: aggravated assault, illegal firearm sales, carjacking, weapon smuggling, extortion, murder, rape, burglary, drug sales, home invasion, and stealing/exporting cars from the U.S.

Sources: FBI and National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations

GRAFFITI

- Graffiti typically includes: “Providence Salavtrucha Locos”, SUR 13, Mara, MS, MS-13, XIII, and/or X3
- Neighborhood “SUR 13” Graffiti
- Graffiti claiming MS-13 gang affiliation

HAND SIGNS

MS-13 Gang Hand Sign

FLAG OF EL SALVADOR

- The two blue stripes represent the Pacific & the Atlantic Oceans. The white stripe represents peace.

MS-13 members wear blue & white as is represented by the flag of El Salvador.
**Definition of a Gang**

Three or more people with common interests, bonds, & activities characterized by criminal or delinquent conduct engaged in collectively or individually.

**Identifying Gang Behavior**

In terms of identifying someone who is claiming a particular gang affiliation, it is very important to look for multiple signs. A single sign, in isolation, is often not a credible way to identify gang affiliation accurately. However, a combination of identifiers may indicate the need to seek support for the child who may be gang involved.

**Why do kids join gangs?**

- For adventure & excitement
- For a sense of belonging and attachment
- To gain respect or to attract girl/boy friends
- To feel powerful
- For monetary gain & to escape poverty
- To retaliate against home or society
- To emulate family members

Look for jewelry and dew rags that indicate possible drug involvement.

**Signs of Possible Pre-Gang Behavior:**

(look for multiple signs)

- Sudden change in friendships
- Parents uneasy around new friends
- Attitude change; uninterested in family activities and values
- Spending more time alone/withdrawal
- Poor grades at school; cutting classes
- Angry or bullying attitude
- Impatient, intolerant, aggressive
- Disrespectful and demanding
- Resents authority figures
- In trouble with the police
- Dressing regularly in a particular color
- Radical body piercing, hair styles, jewelry, or clothing
- Drawing symbols or strange words on notebooks, clothing, or walls of bedroom
- Uses spray cans or felt markers to mark on others’ property
- Stays out after being asked to be home at a certain time
- Uses an unfamiliar nickname for self
- Strange words in their vocabulary
- Unexplained possessions or money
- Carrying items that could be used as a weapon
- Tattoos on body

**What Parents Should Know**

Discourage Children From Joining Gangs:

- Encourage your children to participate in supervised, responsible activities to fill their free time.
- Know where your children are and who they are spending time with.
- Teach children acceptable and responsible behavior.
- Encourage children to talk about what is going on in their lives at school & in the community.
- Develop a no-tolerance policy for gang clothing, gang writing, or hanging out with gang members.
- Be a positive active role model.

Look for writing of gang signs, gang names, or gang symbols on body or on school notebooks.
In many parts of the country, race, nationality, and gender determine which gang can be joined. In Colorado Springs, gangs are hybrid in nature. Members are jumped into gangs based on their willingness to perform “required” gang related activities, rather than their race, nationality, or gender.

**OVERVIEW OF THINGS TO BE AWARE OF NOW THAT SCHOOLS ARE BACK IN SESSION**

**NUMBERS** used to identify gang and/or drug affiliation:

- **5** = People Gang
- **6** = Folk Gang
- **13, X3, XIII** = Surenos (southern California)
- **14, XIV** = Norteno (northern California)
- **666** = Satanic Gang
- **187** = Homicide code in California
- **45 Blood Set**
- **3-11 Crip Killa**
- **420** = Referencing “time to do drugs”
- **81st** = Gang Set
- **18th** = Gang Set
- **XXX, 30, Gang Set**
- **719, 213, 714,805,818,909** = Area codes where gang members are claiming “home town” affiliation
- **1394** = Acid

**Identifying Gang Behavior**

In terms of identifying someone who is claiming a particular gang affiliation, it is very important to look for multiple signs. A single sign, in isolation, is often not a credible way to identify gang affiliation accurately. However, a combination of identifiers may indicate the need to seek support for the child who may be gang involved.

**SYMBOLS** used to identify gang and/or drug affiliation:

- **ICP** = Insane Clown Posse
- **CK** = Crip Killa (Blood term)
- **BK** = Blood Killa (Crip term)
- **$** = referencing drugs (sales/use)
- **SUR** = Surenos
- **THREE DOTS** = Mi Vida Loca
- **TEAR DROP** = Prison time/Drive by shooter
- **WS** = West Side
- **SS** = South Side
- **ES** = East Side
- **NS** = North Side
- **CROWNS** = Gang affiliation (5 point & 6 point)
- **BGD** = Black Gangster Disciples
- **BOS** = Brothers of the Struggle
- **SOS** = Sisters of the Struggle
- **PITCHFORKS** = Folk Symbol
- **CANE/STAFF** = People Symbol
- **LA** = Los Angeles (area code 213)
- **L** = 12th letter of alphabet
- **A** = 1st letter of alphabet
- **L (12) + A (1) = 13**
- **NHB** = Neighborhood Blood

**SYMBOLS (Cont’)**

| **NORTE-NORTENO** = Gang Name |
| **SURENO** = Gang Name |
| **HAPPY/SAD FACES** = Play now; Pay later |
| **CRAB** = Slang put down for Crip member (Blood term) |
| **SLOB** = Slang put down for Blood member (Crip term) |

**CLOTHING**

- dew rags
- lanyards
- shirts with any of the gang symbols, gang hand signs, gang numbers (13/14/187)
- 1/2 gloves
- shoelaces/red/blue
- wrist bands with gang references
- shoes with anarchy symbols
- or gang symbols
- hats with gang symbols under the bill, or tipped right or left
- hair nets
- pant legs (one up & one down)
- belts with gang numbers/letters (ie: S= Surenos (if the student’s names doesn’t Begin with an S))
WHAT ARE WE SEEING IN THE SCHOOLS THIS YEAR?

The gang named “Insane Clown Posse” stems from a rock band who’s music is promoted by Psychopathic Records. It has over one million followers who call themselves Juggalos & Juggalettes. Joe Bruce (“Violent J”) gave Insane Clown Posse its name, and the band members began developing their “wicked clown” alter egos soon after. They also began painting their faces like clowns which became their trademark. They usually wear black or white clown-like “eye” make-up and often dress in black. Juggalos are people who have shared similar, hurtful, experiences such as being chosen last for team sports, who have had abusive parents, who haven’t had the necessary supports to grow successfully in life, who have not had others to turn to, and/or who feel they have been shunned by society. They refuse to conform to the mainstream.

One Juggalo states, “To me this Juggaloism means to be with people who are like you, and people that understand you. We are the freaks, thugs, scrubs, and generally the people you don’t see yourself fit to talk with. Another Juggalo says, “Juggalos are probably the most culturally diverse, self-expressive, unique, and creative people I know. Everyone is on an even level because we all grew up the same way and harnessed the same beliefs and ideas of life. There is no such thing as a hierarchy in this society, which we truly believe to be Utopia.”

Several schools have called regarding messages shaved into student’s hair styles. I am working with each of the schools on what the intended message is. In the meantime, a $5.00 Starbucks gift card goes to the first person who e-mails me, (below) or calls me, (above) with what the intended message of this shaved hair style might be!
GRAFFITI

Laws that relate directly to graffiti:

Graffiti Materials:
- Broad-tipped markers
- Etching Equipment
- Paint Sticks
- Spray Paint Containers
- Other: Any other devices capable of scarring or leaving a visible mark on any natural or manmade surface.

21-6-604: Defacement Prohibited
It shall be unlawful for any person to apply graffiti to any natural or manmade surface, on any City-owned property, or on any non-City-owned property.

Graffiti removal required time limits:
It shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant of any real property to permit graffiti to remain upon any permanently fixed object on the owner or occupant’s property for a period exceeding ten (10) days after notice of the graffiti’s existence.

21-6-605: Possession of Graffiti Materials Prohibited:
It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any graffiti materials while in or upon any public place, or while in or within one hundred (100) feet of an overpass, underpass, bridge abatement, storm drain, retaining wall or similar public or private infrastructure.

Exceptions to possessing graffiti materials:
- used in the scope of one’s employment
- permission has been granted by property owner
- participating in a class that requires such materials
- transporting materials between lawful locations while going about one’s lawful business or activity

CONTEST:
Can you read the graffiti message inside this mural? ($5.00 Starbucks gift card to winner!)
Getting prior approval, and strategically placing murals where gang graffiti often goes up in the community, is one positive way to combat illegal tagging. It also helps keep our schools & neighborhoods safe!

When an approved mural in a neighborhood gets tagged with graffiti, it’s important that the neighborhood restore the mural quickly to discourage gangs from taking over.

This bridge to Manitou has ceramic murals under the bridge to discourage illegal tagging of graffiti. (below)

“The Melting Pot” mural (below) is located on an overpass in Colorado Springs to discourage illegal tagging of graffiti.

The downtown bus station (below) has approved “artistic murals” to discourage illegal tagging of graffiti by those passing through, or waiting for a bus.

Approved mural at Cache La Poudre has recently been restored by North Middle School students to eliminate the illegal tagging that took place. (below)

Acacia Park has “approved murals” for everyone’s enjoyment. (below)
We’ve had multiple requests from school personnel and parents, asking for the following information:

**Signs of Possible Pre-Gang Behavior:**

*(look for multiple signs)*

- Sudden change in friendships
- Parents uneasy around new friends
- Attitude change-uninterested in family activities and values
- Spending more time alone-withdrawal
- Poor grades at school - cutting classes
- Angry or bullying attitude
- Impatient, intolerant, aggressive
- Disrespectful and demanding
- Resents authority figures
- In trouble with the police
- Dressing regularly in a particular color

Red is the common color for “Blood” gang members
(alternate color is green)

Blue is the common color used for “Crip” gang members
(alternate color is purple)

Look for signs of possible drug involvement:

- **Marijuana Leaf Patch**
- **Earring (above), and necklace (below) with dollar sign displayed**
- **“Dollar Sign” dew rag (below)**

Look for dew rags indicating possible gang involvement

(Three dots represent: Mi Vida Loco)

Look for unfamiliar symbols on belts, (above) on jewelry (below), tattoos, or graffiti on notebooks.
School's out for the summer....Do you know where your children are?

Graffiti locations where children often hang out when they aren't in school:

- Business rooftops are popular locations for graffiti artists (above)
- Drainage ditches under roadways (above)
- Ladders leading to underground culverts that extend throughout the city
- Underground tunnels housing the homeless
- Drugs & drug paraphernalia are often found in above areas
- Ladders offer easy access to billboards for graffiti artists
- Razor wire offers little or no protection from graffiti (see wall behind wire above)

Locations where the homeless seek shelter & our students hang out

- Under bridges (above)
- Train yards with active train activity
- Look high (above) Look low (below)

Structured and supervised summer activities help our students have a fun and safe summer!