



Gang Prevention Resources

US Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhoods: www.psn.gov
Project Safe Neighborhood Task Force, United State's Attorney's Office,
Eastern District of Kentucky

Hydee R. Hawkins: 859.685.4881 or Rob Duncan: 859.685.4847

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Lexington/ Covington: 859.219.4500; Ashland: 606.329.8092

Fayette County Crimestoppers in Schools

Rob Sarrantonio 859.258.3746; www.lfucg.com/CrimeStoppers

Fusion Center, Department of Homeland Security

Frankfort: 502.564.2081

G.R.E.A.T. website: www.great-online.org

Robert Walker's Gangs OR Us website: www.gangsor.us

**TALK TO YOUR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER
OR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT**



Consequences for Communities

- Gangs don't operate in a vacuum. Innocent bystanders are often hurt as gang violence escalates.
- Families are torn apart as gang members are forced to decide to show loyalty to the gang or their loved ones.
- Property crime (vandalism, theft, etc.) is usually the first stepping stone to gang membership. This may be YOUR home being burglarized or damaged!
- Schools can become places of fear rather than places of learning as gang culture impacts school climate.
- Businesses do not want to locate in areas where gangs exist, damaging community economics.
- Research shows gang membership increases the chances of being arrested, incarcerated, or killed. An arrest record is often in place within 6 months of first hanging around a gang.

Types of Gangs in Kentucky



There is no such thing as a "wannabe" gang-banger. He believes he is so we need to treat it as such.

- **Turf Gangs**—Generational in nature, these gangs focus on tradition and long-standing membership.
- **Transitional Gangs**—More transitional in nature, these may be multi-ethnic or organized around a single ethnic culture, but always focus less on tradition and longevity and more on situational opportunity.
- **Drug Gangs**—Usually a subgroup of a larger gang, there is heightened violence, drug use and internal authority issues in this format.
- **Hate Groups**—Racial, religious or other socially- or culturally-focused organizations with violent and anti-social activity as the primary focus.



Common Identity Markers for Gangs

- Particular clothing markers such as one or two colors, headband, hats or belts worn a certain way, particular logos always present.
- Many gangs have their own alphabet styles. These can be seen embedded in drawings or symbols on books, paper, clothes, as tattoos, or graffiti.
- Tagging (covering up gang graffiti with spray paint by another gang) indicates disrespect and usually means trouble is brewing.
- Gangs develop specific hand signals to communicate respect, identification, levels of power, length of service, types of criminal activity, and more. These can be subtle and is a form of sign language.
- Gang initiation usually involves some type of physical beating.
- Like hand signs, gang members usually adopt a moniker that is only used by other gang members that may or may not show a pattern in style.
- Gangs encourage total loyalty and commitment to the gang, even if it means withdrawing from longstanding friends and even family. The gang social structure is designed to emulate a family but the goals (independence and individual success) are warped to focus on the success of the gang rather than individuals.