

Gang Presentation for Multi-Housing



**MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRI-STAR PROGRAM**



What is a gang?

- Gangs cross all ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, gender, and geographic boundaries. They bring fear and violence to neighborhoods, traffic in drugs, destroy property, involve youth in crime, and drive out businesses. Gangs pull teens away from school and home into a life of violence.
- Gangs usually claim a particular area of town which they call their “turf.” They spend much of their time fighting rival gangs to keep them out of this territory.
- Most gang members are males ranging in age from 14 to 22 years old.
- Females, especially Asian and Hispanic, are moving away from the traditional role of being merely girlfriends of gang members and are forming their own gangs.



Gang / Gang Member Definition

- “Criminal Street Gang” means an ongoing formal or informal association of persons whose members or associates individually or collectively engage in the commission, attempted commission, facilitation, or solicitation of any felony act and who has at least one individual who is a criminal street gang member.
- “Criminal Street Gang Member” is an individual who meets two (2) of the following seven (7) criteria: (1) Self Proclamation; (2) Witness Testimony or Official Statement; (3) Correspondence: Written or Electronic; (4) Paraphernalia or Photographs; (5) Tattoos; (6) Clothing or Colors; or (7) Any other indicia of street gang membership. ARS 13-105



Gang Crimes

- Gang members are responsible for a majority of crime within our community.
- Gang members commit crimes such as:

Homicide

Armed Robbery

Burglary

Vehicle Theft

Sale of Illegal Drugs

Home Invasions

Identity Theft

Prostitution

Criminal Damage

Sex Crimes

Aggravated Assaults

Kidnapping



Types of Gangs in Arizona

There are hundreds of gang cells around Arizona, however, there are only a few gang categories:

- **African American Gangs** (Bloods/Crips)
- **Hispanic Gangs** (Surenos, Brown Pride, La Nuestra Familia)
- **Native Gangs** (Navajo Boyz)
- **Asian Gangs** (Asian Boyz, White Dragon, Triads, Yakuza)
- **White Supremacy** (Skinheads, Hammer Heads, Nazi Low Riders)
- **Motorcycle Gangs** (Hells Angels, Vagos, Mongols, Bandidos)
- **Prison Gangs** (Aryan Brotherhood, Mexican Mafia)
- **Hybrid Gangs** (A mix of races and gangs)
- **Tagger Gangs** (Original Art)
- **Party Crews or Car Clubs** (Non-traditional gangs)
- **Juggaloos** (Insane Clown Posse sub-culture)



A few of the major Local Gangs

- **SSM-Southside Mesa**
- **WSM-Westside Mesa**
- **ESM-Eastside Mesa**
- **SSML-Southside Mexican Locos**
- **PPG-Pioneer Park Gangsters**
- **Doble-Wetback Power**
- **Westside Crip Gangsters (1051 Crips)**
- **Varrio Los Crazy Mexican Familia**
- **Black Disciples**
- **ICP-Insane Clown Posse (Juggalos)**
- **Other Agency Gangs** (Phoenix, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, AJ and Salt River. These gangs are also involved in criminal activity throughout Mesa.)



Gang Member Totals in Mesa

As of June 2009

- Gang Members: 2805
- Gang Affiliates: 758
- Gang Total = 3563



SIGNS OF GANG INVOLVEMENT

THESE ARE SOME OF THE MORE COMMON INDICATORS. THE MORE INDICATORS OBSERVED, THE HIGHER PROBABILITY THE SUBJECT MAY BE A GANG MEMBER

- ✘ CHANGES IN STYLE OF CLOTHING AND JEWELRY
- ✘ TATTOOS AFFILIATED WITH A GROUP
- ✘ GANGSTER INFLUENCED LANGUAGE OR SLANG
- ✘ POOR OR NO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
- ✘ NO PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY ACTIVITIES
- ✘ PHOTOGRAPHS DISPLAYING GANG RELATED MANORISMS
- ✘ CARRIES A WEAPON
- ✘ USES UNUSUAL HAND SIGNS OR GESTURES
- ✘ UNEXPLAINED MONEY, JEWELRY, CLOTHING OR GOODS
- ✘ NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OR BEHAVIOR
- ✘ POSSESSION OF SPRAY PAINT OR MARKING PENS
- ✘ GANG MARKINGS ON CLOTHING, CAPS OR NOTEBOOKS
- ✘ UNEXPLAINED INJURIES

COLORS

RED = BLOODS



BLUE = CRIPS



In the late 1960s, from the playground of Fremont High School, the first signs of the Crips emerged, led by South L.A. teenager, Raymond Washington; he is generally credited as the Crips' founding member.

In response, a number of rival gangs formed an alliance, calling themselves Bloods - a moniker adopted by African-American soldiers serving in Vietnam.

Gang Hand Signs



- Gang members use hand signs as a means of displaying their gang membership.
- Gang hand signs are also used as a means of intimidation by invoking the backing of their gang.

Gang Hand Signs

There are a variety of hand signs used by gangs and there is a great deal of information available on the Internet



Tattoos



- Tattoos, just like hand signs are used as a means of identifying their gang membership.
- Tattoos are also used as a means of intimidation.
- A tattoo may also indicate a gang members nickname.

Tattoos are often obtained by younger gang affiliates when first joining a gang. Ages of these subjects are usually 14 and 15 years old!



The three dots...Mi Vida Loca – My Crazy Life

Hidden Tattoos



“SUR 13”

- Gang members often try to hide tattoos in areas covered by clothing or hair in order to obtain jobs, rent apartments or to just fit in, but once the clothing is removed or the head is shaved exposing the tattoos; a different story is told.



Black Light Tattoos

- Black Light tattoos are the latest fad in body art, although it has not been taken up with the criminal element as of yet.
- Most gang members are proud of their gang association, and want to advertise their loyalty appropriately. However, as the criminal element tries more and more to blend in with the normal inmate population we will probably see more and more of these types of tattoos.
- The application of a black light tattoo typically takes longer because the tattoo must be checked frequently under a black light during its application process. Also, the inks tend to be thinner and harder to work with.
- With this type of tattoo, you can usually see the scaring associated with the original application of the tattoo for several months after it has been applied, however, after 6 to 12 months the tattoo will be completely invisible to the naked eye. The ink is expected to last about 3-5 years.

Ultra Violet Tattoo



2 Days



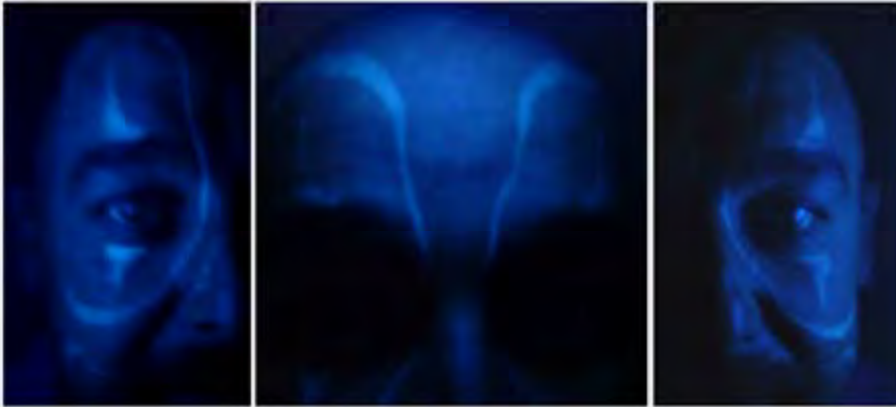
7 Days



Under UV Light

In September 2006, the Latino Gang Investigators' Association indicated that some **Latin King** gang members have had black light tattoos placed on their bodies so that law enforcement will not be able to easily identify them.

Ultra Violet Tattoos



Invisible to the naked eye until under an ultra violet light.





What does the future hold for a gang member?

- Gang members may be killed or injured.
- Many put themselves in danger of disease, prison, and death.
- Many become dependent on alcohol and drugs.
- Gang members usually drop out of school, limiting their chances for higher education or good employment.
- They are likely to be involved in crime throughout the rest of their lives.
- They may commit serious and violent crimes that lead to lengthy jail time.



What can I do?

- If you are threatened by gang members, don't overreact. Stay cool and try not to act scared.
- **Get Involved!** Become aware of what's going on in your neighborhood or community. When incidents, such as vandalism, loitering, and suspected drug activity occur, report them to the police immediately.
- Graffiti is a territorial marker for gang members. When you see graffiti, have it removed immediately.
- Enforce the Crime Free Lease Addendum and property rules. These are your tools to remove gang members when they break the law or your rules!



Contacts

Mesa Gang Hotline

480.644.GANG or 480.644.4264

Graffiti Paint Out

480.644.3083

Silent Witness

480.948.6377