

GANGS

What is a Gang?

A gang is a loosely organized group of three or more people who interact together and exclude others. The group has a name and a leader or leaders. The gang may have developed an identifying sign, colors, clothing, tattoos, jewelry, or hand signals. The gang often claims a territory or an area and will fight rival gangs for control. Many gangs use distinctive graffiti or “tags” to mark their territory. Gangs usually participate in some kind of illegal activity, whether it be violent crime, theft or drug dealing.

Why do Kids Join a Gang?

Kids join gangs to fill their basic needs which usually are not met at home or at school. These are:

Respect
Recognition
Belonging

Support
Protection
Money

Family/Friends
Identity
Control/Excitement

Signs of a Gang Member

Colors or Emblems
Negative Behavior
Unexplainable Income
“Gangsta” Rap Music
Secretive/Defensiveness

Hand Signals
Drop in Grades
Bullying

Graffiti/Symbols
Carrying Weapons
Gang Slang
Out of Control Behavior
Non-Interest in Family

Gang Tattoos/Jewelry/Clothing

What Can A Parent Do?

As a Parent "What Can I Do"?

- ☞ Listen and talk to your child.
- ☞ Spend time with your child.
- ☞ Put a high value on education, help them succeed at school.
- ☞ Identify positive role models and heroes in your community.
- ☞ Involve you child in supervised, positive group activities.
- ☞ Know what your child is doing and whom he/she is with.
- ☞ Know their friends and their friend's families.
- ☞ Think of your child in a positive light but don't be blind.

Tell Your Child

- ☞ You disapprove of gangs
- ☞ You don't want them hurt or arrested
- ☞ He/She is special and worth protecting
- ☞ Family members don't keep secrets from each other
- ☞ You want to help him/her with their problems
- ☞ A story about a problem you had when you were younger

What Can I Do to Work Towards a Gang-Free Community?

- ☞ Talk to other parents, support one another in organized clubs, sports and activities for the children.
- ☞ Report suspicious activity immediately (gang graffiti, criminal/drug activity, etc.), set up a community patrol.
- ☞ Work with police and other community agencies. Find out what local services there are that will work with neighborhood groups against gangs and drugs.
- ☞ Start a Neighborhood Group that will address a clean and safe community for our children to grow up in.



"It takes a village to raise a child"

Get to know your village and your child.

Escondido Community Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles
Crimes in Progress
Code Enforcement
Domestic Violence
Drug Activity
Graffiti Removal

839-4755
911
839-4650
888-305-7233
839-4954
839-4668

Graffiti Removal Spanish
Neighborhood Liaison
Info Line (Community Services)
Police Dispatch (Non Emergency)
Underage Drinking

839-6386
839-4579
211
839-4722
839-4973

Compliments of the Neighborhood Porch