

## Woodland Police Department



**Gangs** present concerns to those of us in the community who either have children or work with children.

Communication, information and an active involvement is part of an approach to addressing these concerns.

The information in this brochure is provided to assist you. If you have any questions, please contact us.

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# GANGS

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:

**Warning Signs  
&  
Suggestions for Help**



# Gangs



## GANGS.

It's a word that we read in our newspapers. It's a word we hear in our schools. And it's a word that brings concern to parents .

This concern causes many parents to look for help. To seek information. To ask questions.

The Police Department is an expected place where parents will come with questions like:

- ▶ "How can I tell if my kid is in gangs?"
- ▶ "What signs do I watch for?"
- ▶ "What can I do to prevent a future problem?"
- ▶ "Do you have any ideas? Any suggestions on things we can do now?"

We have provided this brochure to give you a starting point in gathering helpful information and forming ideas for using now. Information and ideas that might be helpful in addressing today's concern of gangs and our children.

**Woodland Police  
Department**

## WARNING SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

Please remember that these signs are not absolute. And other issues unique to adolescence can result in similar behaviors. So try and see the big picture.

In regards to gangs, a child expressing or exhibiting any of the following behaviors may already be involved in gang activities or they may only be expressing a beginning interest in gang subculture. In either case, a child involved at any level can be at risk and begin a drift into behavior that is criminal. So, as we see these behaviors it becomes important for us to engage in clear & direct communication

### SUDDEN CHANGES:

- Poor academic performance.
- Truancy.
- Excessive disciplinary referrals
- Change in friends
- Negative police contact
- Going by a new nickname
- Purchasing or wanting clothing all of one color

### USING GANG Graffiti

- on book covers, folders
- on clothing or in their bedrooms

**RELATIVES** are or have been gang members.

### USING HAND SIGNALS (gang signs).

**DEVELOPING SUDDEN REBELLIOUS** attitudes which include:

- Starting to show signs of tobacco, alcohol or drug use.
- Having friends who use tobacco, alcohol or drugs.
- Suddenly argumentative.

## SOME IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

If a child shows signs of being interested in gangs, what can parents or teachers do? Ultimately a child will make their own decisions but we can do much to emphasize how important a child is to us both by our words and actions. Below are some suggestions:

**WORK TOGETHER:** There's strength in a partnership of parents & school

**PARENTS: GET INVOLVED** at your School

- Talk To Teachers

- Know School Policy on Gangs

- Volunteer at your child's school

- Pay Attention to School Grades

- Use school support services (i.e.,

- guidance counselors, nurses,

- school psychologists & School

- Resource Officers).

**PARENTS: BE INVOLVED** in your child's life

- Be a Positive Role Model

- Set standards of reasonable living

- Spend Time With Your Child

- Communicate Honestly

- Understand Their Feelings

- Set Clear limits & Stick to them

- Don't allow your child to do

- "gang" things

- Meet & Talk With the Parents of your child's friends.

- Involve children in supervised, positive activities

- Listen to them. Encourage them.

**BOTH SCHOOL & PARENTS** should have clear expectations &

- consistent consequences

**REDUCE GRAFFITI** in the schools

- Develop a working partnership with Law Enforcement