

IN THE KNOW

The Facts About

GANGS

WHAT IS A GANG?

A gang is a group who claim a territory within a community and carry out illegal and violent activities, like selling drugs or burglary.

HOW DO YOU TELL IF SOMEONE IS IN A GANG?

They Might:

- Start hanging out with a new group of friends.
- Show a change in personality or behavior.
- Carry weapons, like guns or knives.
- Withdraw from family or friends.
- Get tattoos, wear jewelry or clothing that identifies a particular gang.



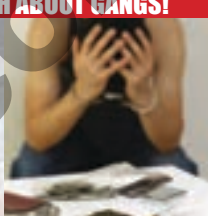
WHY DO PEOPLE JOIN GANGS?

- They want to belong and feel accepted.
- They think they will become famous, rich, and powerful.
- They want protection.
- They're bored.

BUT THEY'RE MISSING OUT ON THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT GANGS!

Gang members:

- Usually have to go through an initiation, like committing a violent crime, to join the gang.
- Are told what to think and do – they lose their individuality.
- Make lots of enemies.
- Are more likely to be injured, use drugs, or end up in jail.
- Don't make money from gang activities.



ONCE YOU'RE IN A GANG, IT'S HARD TO GET OUT!

GANGS USE THREATS AND VIOLENCE TO CONTROL MEMBERS AND KEEP THEM IN THE GANG.



GANGS ARE A DEAD END - MAKE SMART CHOICES!

- Think for yourself and believe in yourself.
- Use your common sense.
- Avoid known gang members and areas where gangs hang out.
- Say "no" if someone asks you to join a gang.
- Talk with trusted adults if someone you know is in a gang.
- Don't spend time with people who pressure you or make you feel uncomfortable.



BE TRUE TO YOURSELF! STAY AWAY FROM GANGS!