

What Can Parents Do?

- Insist on meeting your children's friends and their parents.
- Know where they are going, with who, how they are traveling and when to expect them home.
- Set rules and enforce them.
- Encourage legitimate out of school interests to develop a sense of belonging.
- Get involved with your children's school.
- Remember that you are the one who controls how much privacy your child can expect.
- Monitor your child's computer use. Know what they are posting and who their friends are.



Typical Gang Flag

Local Gang Graffiti



**Suffolk Police Department
Neighborhood Enforcement
Team**

Neighborhood Enforcement Team North: 757-514-7969
Neighborhood Enforcement Team South: 757-514-7860

Suffolk Police Department Neighborhood Enforcement Team



Gang Prevention for Parents

To report suspected gang activity or graffiti in your neighborhood, or to receive more information on Suffolk's programs designed to reduce gang violence, call a member of our Neighborhood Enforcement Teams at the below listed numbers.

Telephone :
Downtown Suffolk
514-7860
Northern Suffolk:
514-7967

The Suffolk Police Department Wants to Help Reduce Gang Violence Through Education and Intervention

The Suffolk Police Department is committed to helping parents recognize the warning signs for possible gang involvement. This informational brochure is designed to give parents examples of behavior that are consistent with involvement or affiliation with gangs.



While these signs don't confirm a youth's involvement in a gang, it should be considered a warning sign, and something to

discuss with your child.

As a parent, you have a unique opportunity to positively impact your child. Your time is the most valuable gift you can offer. Ask questions, give advice, provide positive alternatives to gang involvement, and be a positive role model. You are the most important person in your child's life.

Warning Signs that Your Child Might be Involved in a Gang

- Change in hairstyle and/or dress
- New friends who wear the same hairstyle, dress, caps, bandannas, jewelry or other items
- Use of a certain color or refusal to wear certain colors
- Secretive behavior about friends and activities
- Use and recognition of hand signs by friends
- New interest in graffiti symbols or displaying symbols
- Change in places frequented
- Going out with unusually large groups of friends
- Increase of possessions such as clothes, money etc. with no explanation
- Changes in attitudes about school and hobbies
- New discipline problems.
- Phone threats directed at child.
- Tattoos, often handmade, showing a nickname, gang affiliation or numbers and letters.



Outcomes for Youth Involved in Gangs

Youths involved in gangs are likely to experience one or several of the following outcomes:

- Poor performance in school
- Threats to yourself or family
- Physical trauma or injury caused by rival or own gang
- Incarceration
- Death

