

RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
LEON L. LOTT, JR.
Sheriff



GANG INFORMATION

WHAT IS A GANG?

A street gang is a group or association of three or more persons who may have a common identifying sign, symbol or name, and who individually or collectively engage in, or have engaged in, criminal activity, or as a juvenile commits an act that if committed by an adult would be a criminal act.

WHAT IS GANG ACTIVITY?

Activities that gangs are involved in include fighting, vandalism, graffiti, and armed robbery weapon offenses, auto theft, battery and drug dealing. Not all gang members engaged in illegal activities. Criminal activity is usually committed by gang members for monetary benefit to either the gang itself or to an individual member.

WHAT ARE COMMON IDENTIFIERS?

Gang members use graffiti, hand signs, jewelry, tattoos, clothing and colors to signify their membership in a gang and to communicate their gang affiliation to others. Each gang has their own graffiti, signs and colors.

WHAT ARE SIGNS OF POSSIBLE YOUTH INVOLVEMENT?

- Baseball caps worn distinctively to the left or the right.
- Tattoos of stars, pitchforks, or unexplained symbols.
- Jewelry, including rings, earrings, and necklaces with nicknames, stars, and pitchforks or unexplained initials or symbols.
- Money from an unexplained source.
- Certain clothes with particular colors and sport team identification, which are the only type a child, will wear.
- Youth fails to go to school or stops attending.
- Youth shows a significant change in attitude and a strong disrespect for authority (Parents, Police, and Administration)
- Youth speaks of the need of protection and the need to carry a weapon.
- Youth reject the natural family in favor of new "family" of peers and older adults.