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FIGHTING BACK IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS



SCHAUMBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT
 1000 West Schaumburg Road
 Schaumburg, Illinois 60194 - 4198

Kenneth R. Alley
 Kenneth R. Alley
 Chief of Police



POLICE DEPARTMENT

1000 West Schaumburg Road



VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG

Schaumburg, Illinois 60194-4198

Cook County, Illinois

Dear Concerned Citizen,

The Schaumburg Police Department, in cooperation with local and state civic leaders, works throughout our community to maintain a safe and healthy environment in which our families may live and grow. This booklet presents a few suggestions on how to deal effectively with gangs, their attempt to influence our children, and the negative consequences if we choose to ignore their potential impact on our lives.



Please take a few moments to look over the information and talk about this important topic with others. If the community is to have any effect in controlling gang activity, it will be through the efforts of all segments of society, local government, business leaders, law enforcement, community groups, and residents working to make our community a pleasant and secure place to live.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Alley
Kenneth R. Alley
Chief of Police

pm

Administrative Division
Telephone: (708) 882-3586

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KENNETH R. ALLEY
Chief of Police

The first accredited police department in the State of Illinois.



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LOCAL CONCERNS

Unlike Chicago and other communities, Schaumburg has a minimal amount of identified street gang members as residents and only a few sporadic semi-organized groups identifying themselves as street gangs. These groups have been identified through their use of graffiti to mark their territory and through the arrest and interviews of a variety of gang members for various crimes. Interviews with these members reveal that they maintain ties to major Chicago street gangs either through direct membership or as a "Franchise" operating in the suburbs. While these groups lack the sophistication and organization of their Chicago counterparts, they nevertheless pose a potential problem in the future.

Gang presence can mean anti-social and criminal activity which directly affects the quality of life throughout our community. This activity may be in the form of congregating in the public areas or throughout a residential neighborhood resulting in troublesome confrontations with residents and youth. Gang presence can also mean disorderly conduct situations and other order maintenance types of problems as well as theft from homes and businesses, auto theft, and theft from autos, criminal damage to property, burglary, drug trafficking, as well as occasional acts of violence. It is of the utmost importance for parents and residents of the community to be aware of the activities that these people will be involved in and take action when such incidents are observed. If the gang knows that their actions will not be tolerated by the neighborhood, they will be forced to move their activities elsewhere. It is only through combined cooperation between residents and the police that this can be accomplished.

The presence of gangs in high schools can disrupt the educational process and create safety issues. School related gang activity may include harassment of students and teachers, vandalism, intimidation, and theft. Wherever gang influence is felt, it is important that schools, parents, police, and residents take active measures to prevent and eliminate it.

Although over forty street gangs have been identified in the Chicago and suburban area this booklet will provide information on gangs that have members residing in the Schaumburg area.

WHAT IS A GANG

Definition: A gang is defined as a group of people associated together in some way: specifically an organized group of criminals, or a group of children or youths from the same neighborhood banded together for social reasons. However, this definition is too general to be practical.

The law enforcement community defines a gang as an organized group with a recognized leader and underlings, which remains together in times of "peace" and "war," shows its unity in obvious ways (colors, hand-signs, graffiti), and its activities are criminal in nature or otherwise threatening to the community/society at large. The last item is what makes a gang different from any legitimate group, and which makes it a concern to police and community leaders.

WHAT IS GANG ACTIVITY

Gang activity is normally criminal in nature and may involve drug trafficking, burglary, theft, criminal damage to property, assaults, intimidation and, in extreme cases, homicide. As the gang becomes more organized and membership increases, the level and seriousness of criminal activity increases.

When a street gang enters a neighborhood, they will immediately claim an area as their "turf" with boundaries most often defined by streets or landmarks. This area will be defended by the gang and no other gang is allowed to do business (sell drugs, commit crimes, etc.) or enter their turf. The gang will then mark the area with graffiti to advertise their presence.

The gang will then start recruitment of new members either by intimidation or offering a sense of belonging or protection to impressionable youths. These youths will in turn be used to sell or carry drugs, steal, damage property, and, through violence, protect their turf and recruit new members.

Neighborhood businesses are the first to suffer the effects of gangs because they must withstand the loss of customers who avoid known or suspected gang areas where businesses reside. The local business owner must also absorb the cost of thefts, and the repair of graffiti marked buildings and store fronts.

Neighborhood residents will experience a drop in property values and peace of mind when gang related criminal activity increases. When a rival gang infringes on the gangs turf, which is inevitable, the potential for drive-by shootings and gang fights increases and, in all likelihood, leads to innocent bystanders being injured or killed.

Although we in the Schaumburg area do not have the problem of highly organized street gangs, the potential for their existence as in every other suburb is something that residents and police must recognize.

THE GANGS VIEW OF GANG ACTIVITY

A gang member's view of gang activity differs from the general public's view. Traditions of solidarity and brotherhood run deep. Pride in one's gang and one's turf is intense. The gang member has a driving need to belong. He needs to tell others that he belongs to a gang and that this is his neighborhood.

While most gang members are involved in criminal activity, a major function is "partying" and "hanging out" with other members of the gang of "homeboys" or "homies." Loyalty outweighs all other personal interests, and an individual cannot just merely join a gang; he must somehow prove his toughness or worth to the group. It is not uncommon for an individual to become involved in violence or other criminal activity to prove himself and build his reputation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT VIEW OF GANG ACTIVITY

Most law enforcement agencies view gang activity as a problem, which, if not addressed at its early stages, could lead to progressively more anti-social behavior, resulting in a large potential for violence. Efforts to control the problem range from community awareness programs to special enforcement units designed to combat gangs. The more active gangs receive most of the law enforcement attention for the time that they are criminally active.

The reason for this attention is to let the gang know that their activities will not be tolerated within a community and that the residents and police will use every means at their disposal to rid themselves of the problem. This is the point where the neighborhood becomes the most

important part of the solution. Because if gang activity is not reported and is allowed to go unchecked, it will grow like a cancer. Full cooperation between the community and the police is of the utmost importance.

WHY YOUTHS JOIN STREET GANGS

Most street gang members join at a young age when they are inexperienced and as yet uneducated in the ways of the world and unable to recognize the negative, long-term consequences of gang membership. Many youths are forced into gangs through intimidation, peer pressure, or protection from other gangs. However, some youths with low self image, low income, or family problems may join because a gang offers a sense of belonging, a sense of family, leadership (however twisted), and acceptance. These basic needs may not be filled outside the gang. The sad fact is that the youth will discover too late that gang membership only leads to a criminal record, prison, or death.

HISTORY OF THE STREET GANGS

Adult gangs have been in existence since practically the beginning of civilization, with examples ranging from groups of bandits attacking ancient caravans to bands of pirates plaguing commercial shipping well into the nineteenth century.

The Industrial Revolution and the migration of Europeans to the United States brought the problems of gangs and organized groups of bandits to the cities of the northeast and midwest. The new arrivals found conditions deplorable and were unable to find work to support themselves and their families. As a result, great numbers turned to crime as a means of survival. However, as a general rule, youth involvement was low until after the Second World War. Youths began to band together, mostly in larger cities, and predominantly along ethnic and racial lines.

Street gangs gave these underprivileged youths a sense of identity and personal power which they had no chance to achieve in any other way. Some fought for control of their neighborhoods, or "turf," while others, not satisfied with their lot in life, turned to crimes as a means to better their situation.

Most established, well-organized street gangs depend on an older,

more experienced leadership to guide the gang and provide direction for the younger members who might not otherwise commit crimes. These leaders have been known to send out the youngest members, sometimes as young as 10 and 11 years old, to commit serious crimes. If these young members are caught, they are likely to be treated less severely than teenagers, and certainly far less severely than adults. As a consequence of this practice, younger and younger members have been seen committing more and more serious crimes. It is not uncommon to find drugs and weapons being carried by the youngest members of the gang to protect the older members and leaders from possible arrest.

GANGS OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBS

The city of Chicago is home to forty documented street gangs with a combined membership of approximately 28,000 people. Among these gangs are four major organizations known as the Black Gangster Disciple Nation, the Vice Lords, the Latin Kings and the Simon City Royals. These and lesser gangs such as the El Rukns, the Spanish Cobras, and the Imperial Gangsters have the largest membership and, as such, have branches in the northwest suburbs.

Chicago and northwest suburban area street gangs have divided themselves into two major groups -**PEOPLE AND FOLKS**. As a basic rule, all gangs belonging to the **PEOPLE** are allied with each other and opposed to all gangs belonging to the **FOLKS**. The reverse is also true. All gangs belonging to the **FOLKS** are allied with each other and opposed to all gangs belonging to the **PEOPLE**. Gangs that are found locally align themselves in the following manner: (Gangs listed alphabetically)

- PEOPLE**
El Rukns
Latin Kings
Vice Lords

- FOLKS**
Black Gangster Disciples
Imperial Gangsters
Simon City Royals
Spanish Cobras

EL RUKNS (People)

The El Rukns, formerly called the Blackstone Rangers, formed around 1958 as a black youth gang. Their recruiting methods along with the help of the media, allowed them to build a membership in the thousands and form a strong, well-structured organization. The Rangers made a decision to become involved in politics and the civil rights movement. Because of this, they were able to acquire federal grant money, which they used to set up various neighborhood programs allegedly to benefit inner city residents. When their programs came under suspicion and their leader Jeff Fort refused to testify at a congressional hearing investigating misappropriation of funds, the grants were cancelled.

The Rangers eventually transformed themselves into a group called the El Rukns which was purported to be a religious organization. The gangs religious standing did nothing to curtail its criminal activities. Their headquarters was raided resulting in the confiscation of weapons and narcotics. Eventually, the government built a case against a majority of the leaders including Jeff Fort. One of the many charges filed against the gang involved contracting to perform terrorist acts for the government of Libya. This, in combination with various other criminal violations, resulted in long prison terms for most of the leadership.

LATIN KINGS (People)

The Latin Kings, the largest Latin gang in the Chicago area, was formed 25 years ago on the southeast side of Chicago. The Latin Kings slowly gained territory and influence, but it wasn't until they reached the Humbolt Park area that they transformed into a major gang power. Hispanic gangs are very neighborhood oriented and will often use the name of the streets they live on in the name of their gang. This in addition to elaborate graffiti, helps to identify their "turf," and combined with a strong sense of "machismo," sets them apart from other gangs. Their manhood and pride are of utmost importance and any insult, however slight, real, or imagined, could easily result in a violent retaliation. The Latin Kings tend to be very family oriented, and it is not unusual to find several generations of the same family involved in a gang.

THE VICE LORDS (People)

The Conservative Vice Lord Nation or Vice Lords, as they are commonly known, have been in existence since the mid 1950's. The group was started by a number of youths who were serving sentences at the Juvenile Detention Center in St. Charles, Illinois.

The unique aspect of the Vice Lords is that, unlike most gangs, they are not a single group, but are comprised of approximately nineteen separate groups. Each of these groups has a different name and individual leadership structure, and it is not uncommon to have inter-group feuds.

The Vice Lords died out in the 1970's as a result of the imprisonment or death of key leaders. However, the 1980's saw a resurgence of the gang as many of its imprisoned leaders were released and picked up their leadership reins. As of today, the Vice Lords have expanded its membership greatly and boasts about branches throughout Illinois and in at least six other states.

BLACK GANGSTER DISCIPLE NATION (Folks)

As the Blackstone Rangers were building their empire in the early 1960's, a group was formed to oppose them and claim their turf. This group, called the Disciples, evolved from a group of neighborhood youths and concentrated on narcotic trafficking. The Black Gangster Disciples are probably the largest black street gang in the Chicago area and they and their various affiliates comprise the Black Gangster Disciple Nation, which controls the majority of drug traffic in the Chicago area. A large portion of the gang's leadership is currently in prison. However, this does not stop them from running day-to-day operations from inside their jail cells.

THE IMPERIAL GANGSTERS (Folks)

The Imperial Gangsters, originally a Hispanic gang formed to provide protection from the Latin Kings, have since relaxed its membership requirements to include some whites. From their beginnings in the early 1970's to the present day, the Imperial Gangsters have

aligned themselves with the Black Gangster Disciple Nation.

SIMON CITY ROYALS (Folks)

The largest white gang in the Chicagoland area is the Simon City Royals. Originally the Royals were a softball team in the Simon Park area of Chicago. The gang progressed to the status of street gang and were, at one time, heavily involved in burglaries. However, since many of the leaders have been sent to the penitentiary, the gang seems to be following the current trend of moving into drug sales. In times of trouble, the Royals will align themselves with the Black Gangster Disciples for protection.

THE SPANISH COBRAS (Folks)

The Spanish Cobras is primarily a hispanic gang formed in the early 1970's and has a reputation for being particularly vicious, specializing in drive-by shootings. They are the current rivals of the Latin Kings.

GANG STRUCTURE

The internal structure of a street gang is generally similar to the organizational structure of many corporations. The leader (Chairman of the Board) is surrounded by a close-knit and trusted group of associates. These associates may have different titles such as generals or council members. Below the associate are the street soldiers or enforcers who are directly involved with defending the "turf," handling drug transactions and marking areas with graffiti.

This type of business like organizational structure is not true for all street gangs. Many of the Latino gangs, such as the Latin Kings, do not have a definitive leader. Instead, they are ruled by a council of leaders representing each faction.

GANG SYMBOLS AND COMMUNICATION

Gang members use hand signals, graffiti and tattoos to signify their membership in a gang and to communicate or "Show" their gang affiliation to others. Each individual street gang has its own unique sign, signal, jewelry, dress and colors. These serve to promote group solidarity and to identify gang members.

It is very important to the gang to protect its symbols from insults by rivals. There is no greater humiliation for a street gang than to have its symbols insulted by rival gangs. If you see graffiti in which a gang symbol (emblem, Tattoo) is upside down, it is a degradation to that gang and was most likely written by a rival gang member. This type of symbol degradation has been the basis for several instances of gang violence.

GRAFFITI: One of the first indications that gangs are in your neighborhood is the appearance of graffiti. To the gang member graffiti is a marking of territorial boundaries and serves as a challenge and warning to rival gangs. Gangs will use graffiti on any available space (walls, street signs, restroom stalls, etc.). The purpose of the gang graffiti is to glorify the gang. Any gang graffiti that is found should be reported to the police for documentation and then removed as soon as possible.

HAND SIGNALS: Hand signals are used by gangs to communicate gang affiliations and/or to challenge rival gang members. Gang members use several means of non-verbal communication, including hand signals or "Throwing signs."

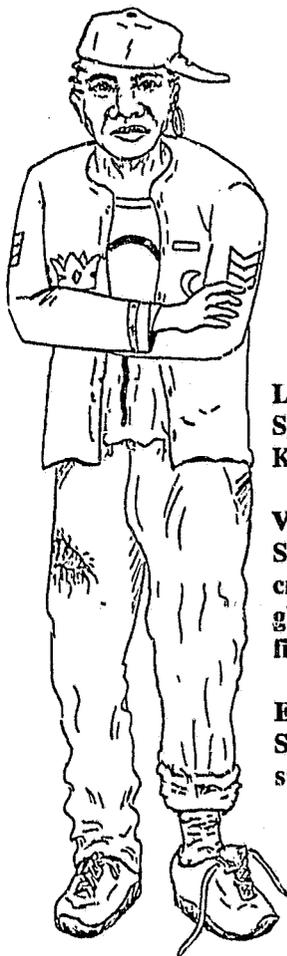
TATTOOS: Tattoos may be viewed as an extension of graffiti, used to identify the wearer as a member of a particular gang. Like graffiti, tattoos will usually include the initials, name or symbols of a gang. There is really no rule as to size, number, or complexity of a gang members tattoos. While some may be inscribed professionally, most are homemade. Tattoos are not found in any particular place on the body, they may be found wherever there is usable skin area.

PEOPLE

'ALL IS WELL'

Signs to the left:

- Hat worn or tilted to the left
- Arms folded to the left
- Pant leg folded on left leg
- Hand inside left pocket
- body lean to the left



LATIN KINGS: (Colors: Black and Gold)

Symbols: Latin King points crown with L on one side and K on the other.

VICE LORDS: (Colors: Black and Red)

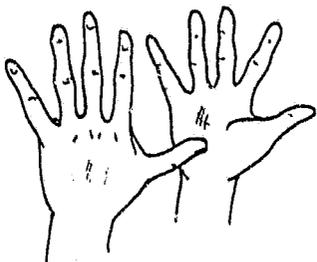
Symbols: 360 circle surrounded by fire with two half crescent moons; pyramid with top hat, cane and white gloves, dice with numbers 7 or 11 showing, dollar sign, and five pointed star.

EL RUKNS: (Colors: Black, Green, and Red)

Symbols: Five pointed star, pyramid with eye, sword, and sun rising.



HAND SIGNALS ("Throwing Signs")

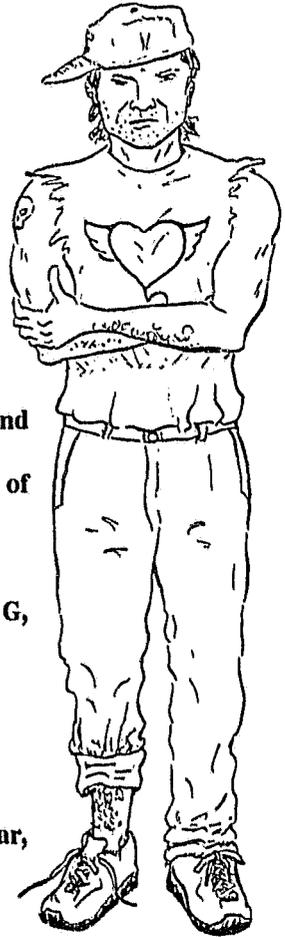


FOLKS

'ALL IS ONE'

Signs to the right:

- Hat worn or tilted to the right
- Arms folded to the right
- Pant leg folded on right leg
- Hand inside right pocket
- Body lean to the right



BLACK GANGSTER DISCIPLES: (Colors: Black and Blue)

Symbols: Crossed pitch forks, six pointed star (Star of David), heart with wings.

IMPERIAL GANGSTERS: (Colors: Pink and Black)

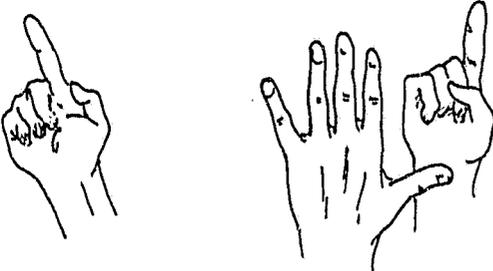
Symbols: Crown with rounded edges, superimposed I & G, raised pitch forks.

SPANISH COBRAS: (Colors: Green and Black)

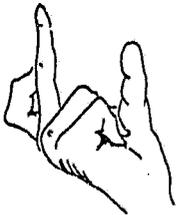
Symbols: Coiled cobra snake, initials S.C., I.S.C.

SIMON CITY ROYALS: (Colors: Black and Blue)

Symbols: Devil with pitch fork, rabbit head with bent ear, initials S.C.R., hat with crossed shotgun and cane.



HAND SIGNALS ("Throwing Signs")



The following symbols are commonly found in the suburban Chicagoland area in the form of graffiti, body tattoos, and jewelry. These symbols are displayed by gang members whose affiliation is with the PEOPLE.

BUNNY HEAD



CROWN



STAFF



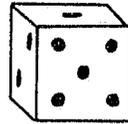
CHAMPAGNE GLASS



CRESCENT



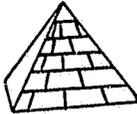
FIVE POINT STAR



DICE



GLOVE



PYRAMID



CHOLO



SPANISH CROSS



NUMBER 5

The following symbols are commonly found in the suburban Chicagoland area in the form of graffiti, body tattoos, and jewelry. These symbols are displayed by gang members whose affiliation is with the **FOLKS**.



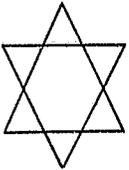
PITCH FORK



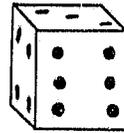
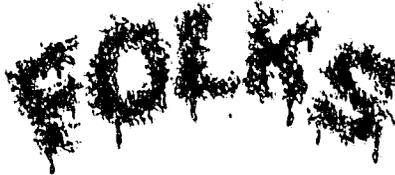
WINGED HEART



DEVIL'S HORNS



SIX POINT STAR



DICE



DEVIL'S TAIL



SWORD



NUMBER 6

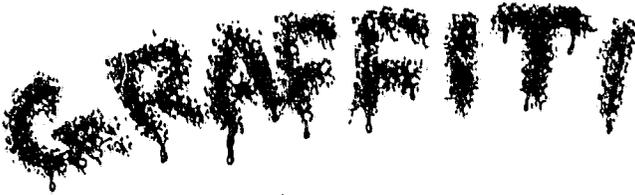


BENT EAR BUNNY HEAD

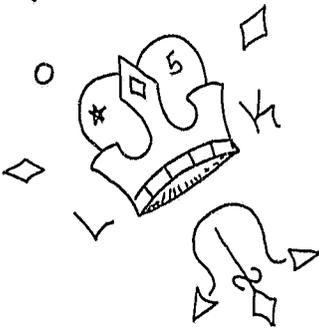


BACKWARDS SWASTIKA

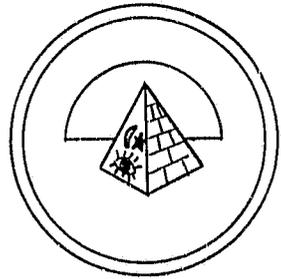
The following drawings depict graffiti symbols used to signify a specific street gang affiliated with the PEOPLE:



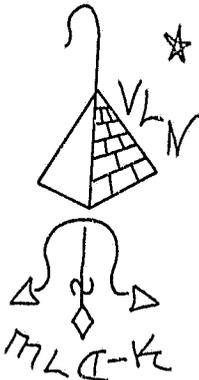
PEOPLE



LATIN KINGS



EL RUKN

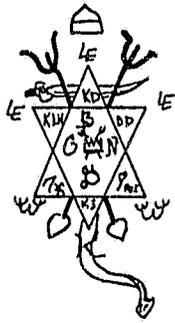


VICE LORDS

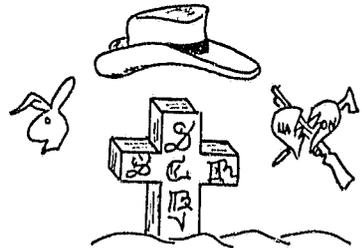
The following drawings depict graffiti symbols used to signify a specific street gang affiliated with the FOLKS:

GRAFFITI

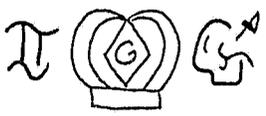
FOLKS



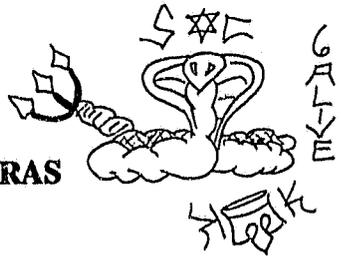
BLACK GANGSTER DISCIPLES



SIMON CITY ROYALS



IMPERIAL GANGSTERS



SPANISH COBRAS

The following is a list of identifiers to assist parents in the recognition or identification of gang members:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Hats | Tilted to the right | Black Gangster Disciples; Imperial Gangsters; Spanish Cobras; Simon City Royals, |
| | Tilted to the left | Latin Kings; Vice Lords; El Rukns, |
| 2) Earrings | Right Ear | Black Gangster Disciples; Imperial Gangsters; Spanish Cobras; Simon City Royals, |
| | Left Ear | Latin Kings; Vice Lords; El Rukns, |
| 3) Glove (One) | Right Hand | Black Gangster Disciples; Imperial Gangsters; Spanish Cobras; Simon City Royals, |
| | Left Hand | Latin Kings; Vice Lords; El Rukns, |
| 4) Pant Cuffs | Rolled up on Right | Black Gangster Disciples; Imperial Gangsters; Spanish Cobras; Simon City Royals, |
| | Rolled up on Left | Latin Kings; Vice Lords; El Rukns, |
| 5) Other | Right/Left | Same rule applies to other articles such as belt buckle, shoelaces, bandannas hanging from the pockets, etc. |

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6) Stars | Six (6) Point | Black Gangster Disciples; Imperial Gangsters; Spanish Cobras; Simon City Royals, |
| | Five (5) Point | Latin Kings; Vice Lords; El Rukns, |
| 7) Crowns | Rounded Tips | Black Gangster Disciples; Imperial Gangsters; Spanish Cobras; Simon City Royals, |
| | Pointed Tips | Latin Kings; Vice Lords; El Rukns, |
| 8) Rabbit Ears | Bent Ears | Black Gangster Disciples; Imperial Gangsters; Spanish Cobras; Simon City Royals, |
| | Straight Ears | Latin Kings; Vice Lords; El Rukns, |
| 9) Gym Shoes | Colors | The colors of the shoes versus the color of the laces or two sets of laces in the shoes to represent gang colors. Laces will be tied up the sides and not in the normal manner, |
| 10) Pockets | Pants | The inside of the pockets have been colored with the colors of the gang. This is used as a means of representing (Showing off gang affiliation). |

THE SPORT TEAM COLORS CONCEPT

Over the last few years gang members are commonly seen wearing professional sports team outer wear such as "starter" jackets, jogging outfits, or shirts with team colors that correspond with their gang's colors.

However, keep in mind that many youths wear sports team clothing and are not affiliated with a street gang. A combination of identifiers would indicate gang membership, such as gang symbol tattoos, wearing gang colors or gang symbol jewelry.

TEAM JACKET

L.A. Raiders Jacket
(Black & Silver)

The Black Gangster Disciples have adopted this team jacket as representative of their gang's colors.

Chicago Bulls Jacket
(Black & Red)

The Black P Stone Nation has adopted the colors of red and black found on the jacket.

L.A. Kings Jacket
(Black & Silver)

The Latin Kings wear this jacket primarily to display the logo.

TEAM CAPS

Chicago Bulls Cap

When worn to the left it represents "The People." When worn to the right it represents "The Folks." (The color is not as important as how it is worn.)

L.A. Kings Cap

Worn exclusively by the Latin Kings.

Louis Vitton Cap

A brown cap with white letters commonly worn by members of the Vice Lord street gang.

WHAT IS THE SCHAUMBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT DOING

The Schaumburg Police Department is one of the most progressive police departments in the state of Illinois. We are able to attack the gang problem from several different areas. Education being the first. We send our patrol officers and specialty units to several schools/seminars each year. Our officers are taught how to identify gang members and how to combat gangs.

One of our goals is to educate our youth and the public. We achieve this goal in several ways. We start in the schools. The Schaumburg Police Department has two officers assigned to the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program. The D.A.R.E. Program is a 17 week course taught in the elementary and junior high schools. The program is designed to teach children how to resist the use of drugs (the #1 income for gangs). The 14th week of the program teaches "Ways to Deal with Pressure from Gangs."

The Police Department has two officers assigned to the Neighborhood Watch Program. These officers will assist you in establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program in your neighborhood. They will discuss the gang problem and how you can help to combat it.

The Police Department has six officers assigned to the Special Operations Group/Task Force. These are our gang experts. They patrol (plain clothes) the neighborhoods where the gangs are and they approach the gang problem head on. These officers target identified problem areas.

The Police Department has six officers assigned to the Youth (Juvenile) Bureau, including the Schaumburg High School Police Consultant. One of his duties is to assist the high school in addressing the gang problem. He coordinates the schools enforcement of its rules of no gang colors or insignias allowed on school grounds. The youth officers address the gang problem when those members are arrested.

The Schaumburg Police Department developed and coordinates a multi-agency gang intelligence organization comprised of numerous communities in the northwest suburbs. This organization shares and disseminates gang intelligence information among the participating communities.

Even though each of these units are separate, we all work together to address this and any other problem that may arise. Through this coordinated effort, Schaumburg is able to keep our gang problem at the minimum that it is.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO

There is no substitute for involvement. Show an active, sincere interest in your child's activities, friends, and interests. Encourage and support positive activities, monitor their whereabouts when not involved in organized activities, and enforce curfews. Know your child's friends, make contact with their parents, and encourage notification of each other if anything unusual occurs with your child or anyone else's. Plan constructive activities through schools, community groups, and churches. Confront your teen if you suspect gang involvement. Ignoring or delaying will only increase the chance of problems later. Seek help from school counselors, social services agencies, or the police, and take a strong stand against gangs at every opportunity.

If you suspect gang involvement, examine your teen's room and belongings for gang symbols, drugs, and weapons. Encourage and support school policies that address gang related activity. Notify the police or school officials to report gang graffiti or any information related to gang activities.

HOW TO FIGHT GANG VIOLENCE

- 1. EDUCATION:** Knowledge of the gangs, their symbols, colors, signs, and graffiti will help you assist us in combating gang problems.
- 2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** The community is the best assistance we can have. If you see any type of gang activity (new graffiti, gang hangouts, criminal activity) in your neighborhood, please call your police department. Testify in court when necessary.
- 3. PARENTS:** Spend time with your children. Plan family activities, discuss gangs with your children (**Listen-Don't Lecture**), find out how they feel about gangs, know your child's friends - **BE AWARE**. If your child is bordering on being a gang member, or is presently a gang member, get help. **DO IT NOW!**

WHAT SHOULD I, AS A PARENT, BE AWARE OF

- 1. As we stated earlier, graffiti is the first sign of gang activity in the area. Watch for graffiti, initials, or symbols on your child's personal belongings - e.g., school notebook, jackets, clothing, etc.**
- 2. Tattoos are a common gang affiliation indicator.**
- 3. Sudden increase in your child's standard of living or sudden, new unexplained possessions.**
- 4. Consistent wearing of the same color combinations as well as wearing of the same color combinations by friends. Jackets from professional sports teams are popular among gang members and associates.**
- 5. Secrecy about activities or time spent away from home.**
- 6. How is your child wearing his/her clothing, such as hats tilted right or left?**
- 7. Major changes in habits - e.g., lower school grades, sudden lack of interest in school activities, change of peer groups, etc.**
- 8. Involvement with drugs.**

Any one of the above does not necessarily mean your child is a gang member. A combination of the above does, however, increase the likelihood. In any event, taking an active interest in your child's life can avoid many of the problems facing our youth of today.

To report any suspicious or criminal activity, whether or not gang related, call 9-1-1.

If you wish to discuss gang related activities, or require additional information, please contact the Schaumburg Police Department Task Force (Gang Specialist) Unit (882-3586), the Crime Prevention Unit (882-3586), or the Youth Investigative Division (882-3534).

REFERRAL AGENCIES OFFERING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE

ADD (Alcoholism-Drug Dependence Program)	397-0095
CPC Streamwood Hospital	837-9000
Kenneth Young Centers	529-8800
Northwest Mental Health Center	392-1420
Spectrum Youth & Family Services	884-6212
Talkline - Kids Lines	228-6400
The Bridge Youth & Family Services	359-7490
Toughlove - Parent Support Group	882-0070
Village of Schaumburg Family Counseling	529-1505
Woodland Hospital	882-1600
Youth Diagnostic Center	885-0640

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