

## **WHAT TO DO:**

### **BECOME AWARE & TAKE A STAND:**

The first and most important step is to become aware of gangs, gang members, and their activities. Citizens armed with basic knowledge are better able to avoid becoming victims of gang attack. When incidents occur, cooperate with authorities. Ask how to become involved in reporting gang crimes and to safeguard your identity when calling.

The Sheriff's Department has a toll free number to call when you see gang activity or want to report information about a crime.

### **1-800-GANGTIP**

Any information obtained through this confidential number will remain anonymous.

### **REMOVE GRAFFITI**

Neighborhood graffiti should be removed quickly. The longer it remains, the more it attracts gang members and rival gang members to add to it or start to cross it out. To remove graffiti call:

### **32-ERASE**

### **KEEP YOUR KIDS BUSY:**

- Be a positive role model
- Increase adult supervision
- Know your child's friends and family
- Help your child develop good conflict / resolution skills (See [www.safeyouth.org/scripts/teens/conflict.asp](http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/teens/conflict.asp) )
- Encourage your child to participate in after school programs
- Sheriff's Activity League (SAL)
- Police Activities League (PAL)
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Park Recreation Programs
- United Way

## **WHAT PARENTS CAN DO :**

- Spend quality time with your child
- Get involved in your child's school activity
- Teach your child how to cope with peer pressure
- Take action in your neighborhood
- Talk with your child about the dangers and consequences of gang involvement
- Consider contacting law enforcement, school personnel, faith leaders, and community organizations for additional assistance.



## **RESOURCES:**

- **PARENT PROJECT**  
[www.parentproject.com](http://www.parentproject.com)  
661-827-3209  
A support group to help deal with out of control or strong-willed juveniles.
- Mental Health  
661-868-6600
- Kern County Probation Department  
"Juvenile Prevention Services"  
661-868-7502  
A program suited for juvenile offenders that have a truancy or misdemeanor offense pending.
- Kern County Probation Department  
"Early Intervention Program"  
661-336-6800  
A voluntary program geared for juveniles that are in the early stages of disruptive behavior.

# **KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

## **Gang Facts**



In recent years the negative impact criminal gangs have on the quality of life has become a growing concern for law enforcement and gang prevention.

Through a better understanding of gangs, the public can become an essential resource in combating gangs and in helping our youth avoid gang involvement.

