

GANGS IN TEXAS



A gang is a group of people who claim a territory and use it to make money through illegal activities (i.e. drug trafficking). Gangs can be organized based upon race, ethnicity, territory, or money-making activities, and are generally made up of members ages 8 to 22. Members of gangs wear specific articles of clothing to be recognized as part of the group such as bandanas, hats, scarves of certain colors, or gang-related tattoos or symbols. Gangs are one of the leading factors for growth of violent crimes both on and off school property.

86 percent of U.S. cities with a population of 100,000 or more report gang activity. According to the FBI there are 33,000 violent street, motorcycle, and prison gangs active in the U.S., with more than 1.4 million members (a 40 percent increase from 2009). In recent years, gangs are participating in more non-traditional crimes such as prostitution, alien smuggling, and human trafficking, as well as white-collar crimes like counterfeiting, identity theft, and mortgage fraud. These new, non-traditional crimes create higher profitability and lower *visibility*.

There are gangs in Central Texas. The following 5 gangs are the largest gangs in our area.

SURENOS 13 (SOUTH SIDE)

RACE: Mostly Hispanic, Caucasian
SYMBOLS: SUR, 13, X3, XIII, La Eme, 3 dots
COLORS: Blue

NORTENOS 14 (NORTH SIDE)

RACE: Mostly Hispanic, Caucasian
SYMBOLS: NORTE, 14, X4, XIV, Huelga bird, 4 dots
COLORS: Red

CRIPS

RACE: Mostly Black, Asians, Native Americans and Caucasians
SYMBOLS: BK (Blood Killer), 6-point star (used rarely)
COLORS: Blue, Purple

BLOODS

RACE: Mostly Black, Asians, Native Americans, and Caucasians
SYMBOLS: CK (Crip Killer), 5-point star
COLORS: Red, sometimes Green

FOLK NATION- GANGSTER DISCIPLES

RACE: Black
SYMBOLS: 6-point star, heart w/ wings, pitchfork upwards, devil horns
COLORS: Black, sometimes Blue

LOS CHOLOS

Los Cholos was formed by Lanier High School Students of Mexican descent. The gang was formed to protect members from other area gangs. Membership is slowly increasing. The gang has a loose structure.

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