

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

▶ PARENTS:

At a young age, talk to your child about the negatives of gang involvement.

Get involved in your child's life, ask questions, know their friends, get them involved in positive activities, and check their social media.

If you believe your child is involved with gangs call their school and inquire about counseling and intervention resources.

Most schools in Utah have gang intervention services or may be able to help with referrals.

▶ SCHOOLS:

Learn about gang prevention and intervention services and programs near you. Utilize your in-school gang prevention advocate, ask them questions and have them give presentations and trainings. If you don't have an in-school advocate call your local police department and ask if they know of resources or can assist in providing a training, the answer will be yes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

Salt Lake City Police Department
Gang Prevention Advocate:
(801) 799-3365



Emergency | Non-Emergency:
911 | 801-799-3000

Tipsoft Crime Tips:
Call 801-799-INFO (4636)
or text 274637

File a Police Report:
<http://slcpd.com/online-report/>

475 South 300 East
Mailing Address:
PO Box 145497
SLC, Utah 84114-5497

www.slcpd.com
[@slcpd](https://twitter.com/slcpd)

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GANG AWARENESS

YOUTH AND GANGS



If you have questions about gangs, resources, how to receive help, or about graffiti removal, our gang prevention advocates can help with that as well.



Promising Youth Project

"Unlocking Promising Potential"

▶ LEARN ABOUT GANGS

Gangs are everywhere. Gangs cross all ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, gender, and geographic boundaries.

Gangs bring fear and violence to schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

Gangs are involved in illegal crimes such as stealing, destroying property, trafficking drugs, and even drive-by shootings.

Gangs pull youth away from school and home and into a life of violence and illegal activity.

INFORMATION TO KNOW

- Gangs can be organized around race, territory, or by money making activities.
- Most gang members range in age of 12-24.
- Gangs wear specific items, brands, and designs of clothing. Clothing will be of specific color, number, or symbol as it relates to their specific gang.
- Gangs use special hand signs, hand shakes, and calls to let others know what gang they belong to.

▶ WHY DO YOUTH JOIN GANGS?

1. **IDENTITY OR RECOGNITION:** Being part of a gang allows youth to feel included, a part of something, it allows them to get the attention and security they may not be getting elsewhere.
2. **PROTECTION:** Youth may join because they have been threatened to do so, or because they are being bullied by other youth who are in gangs. Gangs will often promise protection if youth join.
3. **STATUS:** Youth believe that gangs can get them money, alcohol, and other desires. The gang life is often shown as luxurious, when in fact, it is not.
4. **BOREDOM:** Some youth join because they are bored and feel that gangs will bring excitement to their life.



▶ WARNING SIGNS OF GANG INVOLVEMENT

WITHDRAWAL FROM FAMILY AND LONG-TIME FRIENDS: they will start hanging out with new friends who may all be wearing similar attire and colors, who may use the same slang words, and listen to the same music.

CHANGE IN STYLE OR APPEARANCE: youth may begin to wear only specific colors, numbers, or symbols. They may cut their hair in a specific way, or wear things on a specific side.

UNEXPLAINED INJURIES: youth may come home with bruises or injuries from fighting. May have bruised or injured hands from fighting.

UNEXPLAINED CASH OR GOODS: they may have a new phone, or jewelry or clothing that you are not sure where it came from.

CHANGES IN SOCIAL MEDIA: youth may start having pictures with them posing with hand signs, repping different colors, writing in styles and with slang words you may not recognize. Social media is big with gang members, pay attention to your youth's social media.

NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR: youth may begin to stay out late, ditch school, come home drunk, or get in trouble with the police.

ASK QUESTIONS AND PAY ATTENTION