Gang Awareness

Recently Pikeville police in Wayne County found some gang signs in town. How concerned do parents have to be that their child is involved in a gang? What are gangs?

A gang is a group of people who form alliances for a common purpose & engage in violent & criminal activity. The average age is 14 to 21 years old, but can be as young as 8 years old or as old as 30 years old.

How might one become a gang member? There are different ways to get into a gang. Some include:

1. **Rolled In, Jumped In or Lined In** — consists of fighting 3 or more members of the gang for a period of time.

2. **Courted In** — someone asks you to join without going through initiation. Usually having some sort of special talent that the gang wants.

Information compiled from: www.ncgangcops.org & www.gangs.com

Why Do Kids Join Gangs?

1. **Acceptance** — to gain the attention/love they may not be receiving at home
2. **Excitement** — for the high of committing a crime & getting away with it; an adrenaline rush
3. **Earn Money** — sell narcotics, robberies, burglaries, auto theft & other property
4. **Peer Pressure** — hanging around other gang members
5. **Protection** — just to survive in poor neighborhoods or ones with high gang activity
6. **Socialize** — best parties are gang parties

What Can I do as a Parent?

- Praise your child for doing well
- Encourage them to participate in positive activities
- Get to know your children’s friends & families
- Set the example/be a positive role model
- Talk and listen to your child; talk to them about gangs
- Spend quality time with your children
- Put a high value on education
- Identify with positive role models
- Involve your children in positive group activities

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