

Mission Statement:

To be a proactive, multi-agency, multi-discipline team charged with coordinating the suppression, intervention, prevention and overall reduction of street gang activity within Loudoun County. By utilizing the expertise of the associated agencies, the team will identify gang members, recognize gang activity, and provide services to at risk youth, their families and communities.

Some Services provided by Team Agencies:

- 10th Congressional District Gang Task Force
- Adult Offender Intensive Supervision
- Community Policing Deputies and Police Officers
- Early Intervention and Outreach Programs
- Electronic and GPS Monitoring of Offenders
- Juvenile Offender Intensive Supervision
- LCSO Gang Coordinators
- LCSO Gang Intelligence Unit
- Mental health and Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment
- School Resource Officers
- Sex Offender, Domestic Violence and Employment Counseling
- Victim Witness Program
- Youth Development Services
- Youth Outreach Services

Web-sites that may provide more information on gangs:

www.ngcrc.com

www.iir.com/nygc

www.ncpc.org

For General Information

Contact:

GRIT Coordinator
703-777-0303

For Immediate Law Enforcement Assistance

Contact:

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office
703-777-1021
Leesburg Police Department
703-771-4500

In the event of an emergency, dial 911.

This brochure is sponsored by the following agencies in Loudoun County:
Community Corrections Program
Juvenile Court Services
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services
Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Sheriff's Office
Social Services

And by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Loudoun County Gang Response and Intervention Team



Loudoun County
Gang Response and Intervention Team

Team Member Agencies:

Adult Probation & Parole
Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Community Corrections Program
County Administration
Juvenile Court Services
Leesburg Police Department
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services
Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Public Schools
Sheriff's Office
Social Services

How does **GRIT** define a “gang”?

Criminal street gang means any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, (1) which has as one of its primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more predicate criminal acts, (2) which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and (3) whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. (VA Code Section 18.2-46.1)

Did you know?

- Loudoun County has documented gang activity in Sterling Park, Sugarland, Countryside, Ashburn, Leesburg and Purcellville
- There are approximately 12 active gangs in Loudoun
- Loudoun County has documented gang crimes involving robbery, stabbing, assaults, larceny, destruction of property and graffiti
- Northern Virginia has the 2nd largest population of the most violent Latino gang in the nation
- Gangs are not restricted to specific areas or jurisdictional boundaries.
- Gangs encompass every race and socioeconomic background
- Not all graffiti is gang related
- It is illegal for a person under 18 to get a tattoo in a tattoo parlor

Signs of gang membership and activity:

- Common dress/colors within a group
- Graffiti
- Common tattoo's within a group
- Use of hand signs
- Graffiti type artwork in notebooks or on walls
- Refers to friends as “family”



What **you** can do:

Community Members

- Refrain from the use of specific gang names, as it aids in gang recruitment
- Become involved in community organizations and coalitions that promote positive activities for youth
- Be a positive role model for youth
- Maintain a working relationship with community policing officers and aid in establishing programs such as Neighborhood Watch

What **you** can do:

Parents

- Educate yourself on signs of activity
- Talk to your kids about gangs
- Be involved in their lives
- Get to know their friends and where they go
- Pay attention to behavioral changes such as the way they dress, change in grades, changes in school attendance and the company they keep
- Pay attention to the music they are listening to, the web sites/chat rooms they are visiting and the type of art/posters in their room

What **you** can do:

Business Owners/Retailers

- Remove graffiti as soon as possible so it is no longer visible
- Report any possible gang activity/graffiti to law enforcement
- Enforce “No Trespass/Barment” notices
- If you have a surveillance system, ensure that it functions properly and is recording
- Correct outside lighting problems
- Start and/or enforce a “no gang colors” policy in your establishment