

Protecting Skagit County Youth from Gang Involvement

A Brief Guide to Help Parents and Guardians Recognize and Address Early Signs of Possible Gang Behaviors



Combating Skagit County Youth Gang Activity Requires Everyone's Participation

According to Washington State Law, a "Criminal Street Gang" is defined as:

- any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal
 - having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol
 - having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts
- and whose members or associates individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal street gang activity.

Individuals involved with local gangs are NOT defined by their ethnicity or age; they are defined by the criminal and anti-social subculture behaviors directly associated with their gang involvement.

Indicators of Possible Youth Gang Involvement

- ⇒ *Withdrawing from family activities*
- ⇒ *Changing friends suddenly*
- ⇒ *Using hand signs*
- ⇒ *Developing a bad attitude towards family, school, and authorities*
- ⇒ *Purchasing or desiring to buy or wear clothing of all one color or style*
- ⇒ *Wearing altered headwear*
- ⇒ *Changing appearance with special haircuts, eyebrow markings, or tattoos*
- ⇒ *Using gang graffiti on folders, desks, walls, and buildings*
- ⇒ *Staying out later than usual*
- ⇒ *Wearing belt buckles, hats, and other clothing items worn to either right or left side*
- ⇒ *Carrying weapons*
- ⇒ *Spending time with undesirable people.*
- ⇒ *Suddenly having more money or possessions*
- ⇒ *Contact with law enforcement*

Frequent Skagit County Gangs

Below is a brief summary of the significant characteristics parents need to be aware of for the three predominate gangs in Skagit County (these are constantly changing)

SUREÑO Gang

- "Southerner"
- Shortened to "**Sur**"
- Use **13** in graffiti and tattoos
- **13** can be written many different ways
- Use color **BLUE** in clothing and artwork

Graffiti, Tattoos and Drawings

Sureno Sur
Trece SSF
Los Malos (LMS)

XIII

EME ESP 13

X3 SSK

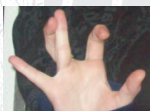
ES 13



ICP Gang

- "Insane Clown Posse"
- Shortened to "**ICP**"
- Use **17 and JRB** in graffiti and tattoos
- **17** can be written many different ways
- Clown face paint

Graffiti, Tattoos and Drawings



NORTEÑO Gang

- "Northerner"
- Shortened to "**Norte**"
- Use **14** in graffiti and tattoos
- **14** can be written many different ways
- Use color **RED** in clothing and artwork

Graffiti, Tattoos and Drawings

Norte
XIV
X4

14
NSL



RESOURCES

If you would like to learn more about gang activity in Skagit County and available gang prevention strategies and programs, please contact any of the following resources:

- Skagit County Youth and Family Services
- Local School District
- [Http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/](http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/)
- Local Police Departments and Skagit County Sheriff