

What parents can do to prevent involvement in gangs and violence:

The #1 deterrent is to be an actively involved parent or guardian (be the parent).

- ☐ Be a positive role model and set the right example for them.
- ☐ Make it a point to know your child's friends and their families.
- ☐ Get involved in your child's school activities and demand good study habits at an early age. Follow up to make sure.
- ☐ Take the time to talk with your child about the dangers of gang involvement. Take the time to listen to your child and discuss how you don't want to see them hurt or imprisoned.

Recognizing and Preventing Gang Involvement

Common Warning signs:

- ☐ Admits to "hanging out" with youth who are in gangs.
- ☐ Shows an unusual interest in one or two particular colors of clothing or a particular logo.

- ☐ Having specific drawings or gang symbols on school books, clothes, walls or tattoos.
- ☐ Has been in trouble with the police.
- ☐ Comes home with unexplained physical injuries (fighting-related bruises, injuries to hand/knuckles).
- ☐ Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothing or jewelry.

Exhibits negative changes in behavior such as:

- ☐ Withdrawal from family.
- ☐ Declining school attendance, performance, behavior.
- ☐ Staying out late without reason.
- ☐ Displaying an unusual desire for secrecy.
- ☐ Exhibits signs of drug use.
- ☐ Breaks rules regularly.
- ☐ Speaking in gang style slang.

Specific actions you can take!

Do not let your child hang out with anyone you do not personally know. Do not allow your youth to stay out late at night or go to locations where crime occurs regularly.

**CITY OF STOCKTON
PEACEKEEPERS**



A YOUTH GANG & VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM



Strategy

The strategy of Operation Peacekeepers is to utilize Youth Outreach Workers in collaboration with governmental, community-based and faith-based organizations to:

- Reduce gang-related violence in Stockton.
- Reduce gang-involvement by youth in Stockton.
- Reach out to youth ages 16 to 24 to prevent gang membership.
- Provide the necessary resources for youth to avoid living a gang lifestyle and the senseless violence that comes with it.

The vision of the program is to build long-term mentoring relationships with youth and provide them with positive alternatives for a healthy, non-violent lifestyle that will make them and their families proud. To carry out the vision, outreach workers utilize the following 3 levels of intervention and prevention.

Level 1 is the evaluation stage that determines the amount of time and resources that will be expended on a youth who is referred to the program. At this level an assessment is done to determine the youth's willingness to do their part to stay away from the gang lifestyle.

It is at this level that school grades and attendance are reviewed and a home visit is conducted.

Level 2 is where the youth has shown the mindset and determination to stay away from or get out of a gang. In this critical stage, the youth will be provided many resources that they must take advantage of and complete. Successes are also recognized in the form of positive feedback and possible rewards.

Level 3 is the stage where the youth clearly shows an obvious determination to stay out of gangs and/or get out of a gang they had been previously involved in. The youth will continue to be monitored regarding their academic achievements (grades), school attendance, attitudes at home and school.

Our Youth Outreach Workers are street-wise men and women, who are ethnically and culturally diverse. They are trained in conflict resolution, mediation, community organizing, mentoring and case management.

Our message:

“There ARE alternatives to gangs and violence, and we are here to help, if you want to participate.”

Rewards

Successes at all levels, small and large, are rewarded in order to recognize improvements in attitudes and behaviors. These include excursions, public recognitions, stipends and other.

Program Success

Much of the success of the program can be measured in the attitudes and feedback received from youth, parents, school officials and citizens in general. In addition, Operation Peacekeeper receives regular positive comments from their many partner organizations.

The Operation Peacekeeper Program gratefully acknowledges its collaborative partners for helping bring about the successes realized.

In 2010, Operation Peacekeeper was the recipient of two distinguished awards:

- The League of California Cities' Helen Putnam Award of Excellence.
- The Cities, Counties and Schools (CCS) 2010 Partnership Award in Public Safety.

The CCS indicated that a panel of judges cited the much collaboration and the impressive results of reducing gang involvement as well as the ability the program has shown to sustain itself for more than a decade.

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