

QUICKGUIDE TO GANGS



**National Alliance of
Gang Investigators'
Associations**

www.nagia.org

DISCLAIMER

This QuickGuide to Gangs is designed to give the field officer a basic overview of symbols and identifiers of some of the major street gangs across North America. It is not inclusive of every street gang in North America and should be used to enhance the understanding of local gangs encountered on a daily basis.

This QuickGuide to Gangs is a collective effort from the National Alliance of Gang Investigators' Associations and is provided by your state or regional Gang Investigator's Association. Questions or concerns about gangs in your area should be directed to the local Gang Investigator's Association. Contact information is listed in the Member Associations section of this guide.

Photos provided in this guide were included with the express permission of the submitting Gang Investigators Association.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WHO IS NAGIA?

The National Alliance of Gang Investigators' Associations (NAGIA) is a cooperative non-profit organization composed of criminal justice and professional organizations that represent gang investigators' associations with a membership of approximately 20,000 gang investigators across North America. NAGIA also has advisory representation from federal agencies and other entities involved in gang prevention, intelligence, enforcement and suppression initiatives.

NAGIA provides international leadership in developing and recommending strategies to prevent and control gang crime, establishing standards for professional anti-gang training, establishing uniform gang definitions, and assisting criminal justice professionals and the public in identifying emerging gang problems and gang crimes, and also provides input to policymakers and program administrators throughout the United States and abroad.



MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

California Gang Investigators' Association www.cgiaonline.org

Connecticut Gang Investigators' Association www.ctgia.org

East Coast Gang Investigators' Association www.ecgia.org

Florida Gang Investigators' Association www.fgia.com

Georgia Gang Investigators' Association www.ggia.net

Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Investigators Network www.maringangs.org

Midwest Gang Investigators' Association www.mgia.org

National Major Gang Task Force www.nmgtf.org

New Jersey Gang Investigators' Association www.njgia.org

New York Gang Investigators' Association www.nygia.org

North Carolina Gang Investigators' Association www.ncgangcops.org

Northern California Gang Investigators' Association www.ncgia.com

Northwest Gang Investigators' Association www.nwgia.com

Oklahoma Gang Investigators' Association www.ogia.org

Ontario Gang Investigators' Association www.ongia.org

RISS www.iir.com/riss/

Tennessee Gang Investigators' Association www.tn-gia.org

Virginia Gang Investigators' Association www.vgia.org

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BLOODS

1.

Also known as: United Blood Nation (UBN).

History: "Bloods", a universal term used to identify both the West Coast Bloods and the United Blood Nation (UBN). While these groups are traditionally distinct entities, as they both identify themselves as "Blood," it is often hard for law enforcement to distinguish between them. The original Bloods were formed in the early 1970's to provide protection from the Crips street gang in Los Angeles, CA. The United Blood Nation (UBN) is an East Coast entity which started in 1993 in Rikers Island GMDC (George Mochen Detention Center) in NY.

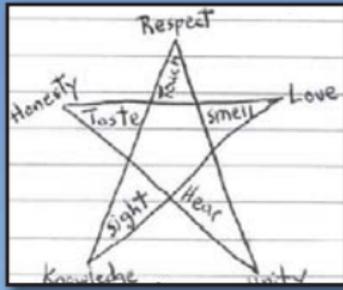
Membership/Hierarchy: Each set of the Bloods has its own leadership, although some Blood sets have been known to coordinate criminal activities for different sets across states.

Location: Blood sets have been identified in all 50 states.

Criminal Activity: The Bloods main source of income is from the distribution of drugs. However, gang members have been known to be involved in robberies, auto theft, prostitution, homicide, drive-bys, and money laundering.

Gang Identifiers:

- The five-pointed star in tattoos or graffiti showing affiliation to the People Nation
- "Damu" meaning 'Blood' in Swahili in graffiti, tattoos and other forms of communication
- Burn marks in the shape of a dog paw
- Colors: Red, and wearing apparel of professional teams such as the Philadelphia Phillies, San Francisco 49ers, and the Chicago Bulls



BLOODS

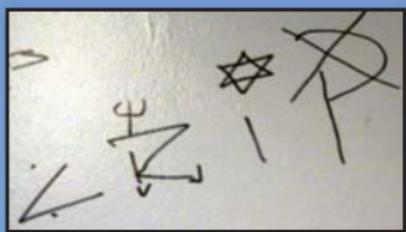
Organization Structure: The Crips is an association of numerous structured and unstructured gangs, also known as sets that have adopted a common gang culture. In the early days of the Crips growth those in prison adopted names such as Consolidated Crips Organization (CCO) or the Blue Note Organization, both names are now seldom used in the traditional gang world. A set may have from three to several hundred members. There is no known national leader or national charter. Local sets vary in their structure from no formal leadership to a hierarchy, which consists of a leader, lieutenants, drug coordinators, soldiers, and drug couriers. The Crips street gang is primarily comprised of African-American males in their early 30s, although membership age can range from 10 to 40 years old.

Active Locations: The Crips street gang was established in Los Angeles, CA in the early 1960s. Every state except West Virginia and Vermont has reported the presence of Crips in their jurisdiction. The states with the highest estimated number of Crips sets are California, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Criminal Activities: The Crips primary source of income is from narcotics distribution. Crips are also involved in drive-by shootings, theft, prostitution, and violent bank robberies. Crips sets launder their drug proceeds by investing in real estate, prostitution, and various cash-based businesses including barber shops, concert promotion companies, and music stores. Crips sets also use drug proceeds to fund recording companies and music groups.

Gang Identifiers:

- Blue, sometimes, purple or no color at all.
- Hoover Gangsters, large multiple sets of African American gangs formed in Los Angeles, formerly known as Hoover Crips who took their name from Hoover Street, have disassociated themselves from the Crips, and use the name Gangsters now. They identify with the color orange.
- Gang members on the West Coast do not represent either left or right and use a variety of colors, however colors are down played and not routinely displayed unless the gang is gathered for a purpose. Those Crips that have migrated to the Midwest or East Coast and have joined forces with the Folk Nation will represent to the right and will use the six pointed star in tattoos and graffiti.
- Crips refer to themselves as 'Blood Killas' and will use the symbol BK many times in their tattoos and graffiti.



CRIPS

Mara Salvatrucha 13

Also known as: La Mara Salvatrucha, MS-13

History: Salvadoran nationals came from war-torn El Salvador in the 1970s and 1980s and settled in the Rampart area of Los Angeles, CA, where they integrated with other Hispanic immigrants. These Salvadoran immigrants established the gang in the early 1980s in response to continued persecution by other Hispanic gangs. The "13" in MS-13 was adopted after MS aligned under the "Sureño" (meaning southern in Spanish) umbrella to demonstrate its allegiance to the Mexican Mafia (also known as La EME). "Eme" (the letter "M" in Spanish) is the 13th letter of the alphabet. Gangs such as MS-13 aligned with La EME in southern California correctional facilities primarily for protection purposes.

Membership/Hierarchy: MS-13 gangs consist of numerous "cliques." Some cliques are highly structured and organized; however, most have little formal structure. Although MS-13 cliques generally function independently of each other, they are well-networked and pose a serious threat to communities in the United States and abroad. Each clique has a leader or set of leaders, commonly referred to as "shot callers," "leaders," or "ranfleros." These individuals set the rules for their respective cliques and oversee daily operations. MS-13 has expanded its membership from primarily Salvadoran nationals to include individuals of other ethnic origins. MS-13 members can also include origins in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

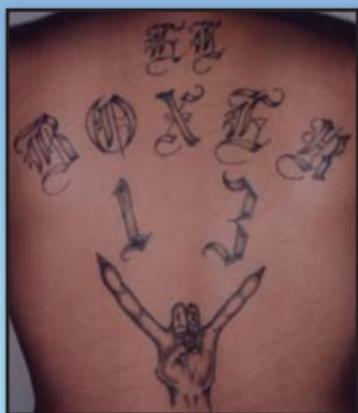
Location: While active in 42 states and the District of Columbia, the MS-13 threat is highest in the Western and Northeastern regions of the United States. MS-13 cliques exist in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama.

Criminal Activity: MS-13 engages in a wide range of criminal activities, including drug distribution, prostitution, immigration offenses, theft, and vandalism. MS-13 perpetrates violence ranging from assaults to homicides, using firearms, machetes, or blunt objects to intimidate rival gangs, law enforcement personnel, and the general public.

Gang Identifiers:

- Devil's Pitchfork
- Graffiti: Devil's Pitchfork, Clique initials, MS-13, Mara Salvatrucha
- Blue, white, black colors

Pender Madri Mia Por Mi Vida Leva



MS-13

LATIN KINGS

7.

Also known as: Almighty Latin King Nation (ALKN), Almighty Latin Charter Nation (ALCN), Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation (ALKQN)

History: The Latin Kings formed in Chicago in the mid-1960's with the goal of helping Puerto Rican immigrants overcome racial prejudice by forming an organization of "Kings."

Membership/Hierarchy: The Latin Kings are highly organized and gang leadership exists at the national, regional, and local levels. Membership is governed by a manifesto and constitution with established rules and by-laws. The gang originally consisted of predominantly Puerto Rican males, but currently have members of various nationalities. Some Latin King chapters also have female associates, commonly referred to as Latin Queens.

Location: While active in 34 states, the Latin Kings can be found primarily in Illinois, New York, Texas and Florida. Latin King chapters also exist in Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Italy, Peru, and Spain.

Criminal Activity: Latin King members are particularly ruthless and are involved in a myriad of criminal activity, including the distribution and sale of drugs, weapons trafficking, murder, assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, auto theft, money laundering, extortion, racketeering, public corruption and intimidation, and alien smuggling. The gang is also known to order "hits" on correctional officers, rival gang members, and members who fail to follow orders.

Gang Identifiers:

- 5-pointed crown
- Graffiti: a lion wearing a crown; 5-pointed crown accompanied by the initials "LK"; Amor de Rey or "ADR," "1-4-18", Amor de Corona, or "ADC"
- Colors: Black and Gold (yellow), red, and green



LATIN KINGS

Also known as: Calle 18, Mara 18, M-18, Barrio 18, La 18

History: The 18th Street Gang was founded by undocumented Mexican immigrants and youths of mixed Mexican ancestry in the 1960s near 18th Street and Union Avenue in the Rampart area of Los Angeles, CA.

Membership/Hierarchy: This gang networks via personal contacts throughout the United States, Mexico, and Central America, and cliques are semi-autonomous groups that do not answer to a central authority. Although Mexican immigrants primarily account for the gang's current numbers, membership is open to individuals of other ethnicities. The racial and ethnic makeup of a particular gang is typically influenced by the demographics of the region in which the gang operates. This inclusive practice allows 18th Street to recruit successfully both in the United States and internationally.

Location: 18th Street has been identified in 36 states and the District of Columbia, as well as Mexico, and Central America.

Criminal Activity: Members of the 18th Street Gang are involved various crimes including: narcotics sales, homicide, rape, assault, automobile theft, document fraud, burglary, robbery, illegal possession of firearms, extortion, prostitution, vandalism, and illegal immigration. Members of the gang are also very opportunistic and participate in other criminal activities as they arise.

Gang Identifiers:

- BEST (Barrio Eighteen Street)
- Graffiti: Mayan numerology for the number 18, XVIII, XV3, Dieciocho, 666
- Colors: Black, silver, blue, and occasionally red



18TH STREET

Also known as: Sur Trece, Sur 13,

History: The term Sureño (meaning southerner) originated in the 1960's in the California prison system after a Hispanic inmate from northern California was killed by a member of the California Mexican Mafia (La Eme). This incident, known as "The War of the Shoes", led to the formation of La Nuestra Familia (NF) and the birth of Sureños and Norteños. On the formation of NF, Hispanic gang members entering the California prison system were expected to set aside their individual street names and rivalries and align as either Sureños under La Eme or as Norteños under NF, which is a practice that still exists.

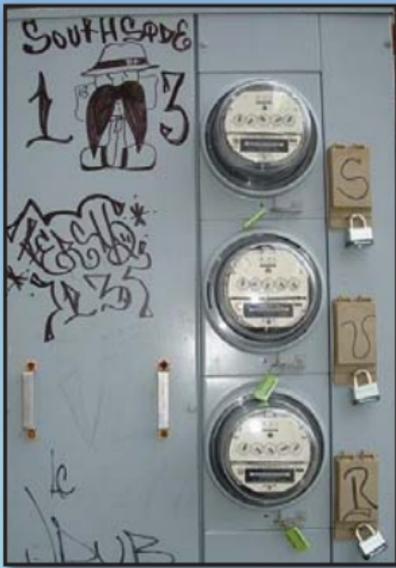
Membership/Hierarchy: Sureños have no national structure or hierarchy; each Sureño gang is an independent entity most often led by a "shotcaller" who delegates responsibilities, organizes criminal activities, oversees meetings, and is the person in direct communication with La Eme. Sureños who prove their worth as soldiers may eventually be recruited and inducted into the elite organization of La Eme.

Criminal Activity: Both on the street and in prison, Sureños act as foot soldiers for La Eme by collecting taxes on drug profits, carrying out orders, and otherwise participating in all activities that sustain La Eme's criminal enterprise. Sureños are involved in a host of criminal activities that include but are not limited to: drugs, weapons, and human trafficking, murder, theft, assault, vandalism, carjacking; extortion, theft, document fraud, illegal gaming, prostitution, home invasions, and robbery.

Location: Sureños exist nationwide and, though California-based Sureños answer unequivocally to La Eme, most Sureño gangs outside of California are loyal but not subordinate to La Eme. Due largely to their ties to Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (MDTOs) and to the illegal status held by many, Sureños are known to have presence south of the border. Sureños have also been documented in Canada.

Gang Identifiers:

- Mainly blue, but may also be seen wearing gray, black, white, and brown colors.
- 13, X3, XIII; the Mayan symbol for 13; and trece, the Spanish word for 13.
- 3 dots for mi vida loca, Spanish for my crazy life; the cholo; laugh now/cry later theater faces; Mexican pride themes; the Aztec war shield and Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec Sun God.



SUREÑOS 13

Also Known As: "Trini", La Trinitaria, and 3NI

History: The Trinitarios started in the late 1980's in the New York correctional system where Dominican inmates banded together for protection from other ethnic groups. They were first identified on Rikers Island and then expanded into the New York State prison system. The gang is believed to have been created by 'El Caballon' who is currently serving a 25 years to life sentence in New York. The creation of the Trinitarios is based on an old secret society that was called 'La Trinitaria' and formed in 1884 for the purpose of helping make the Dominican Republic independent. The word "Trinitario" means "the Trinity" (Dios, Patria, Libertad)

Membership/Hierarchy: Inside correctional facilities, the Trinitarios consist of members from various Dominican gangs, as well as non-gang members from other ethnic groups. Each facility has three supreme leaders that control what happens inside and outside of the facility. Not all members desire to return to their original gang, some individuals choose to remain Trinitarios outside of the prison. This is the cause for the rivalries between the Trinitarios and other Dominican gangs.

Location: The Trinitarios are currently found in Delaware, Maryland, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Alaska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Virginia, Illinois, New York, as well as South America, the Caribbean, and Europe.

Criminal Activity: Trinitario members use a machete as a weapon of choice. Their crimes include drug trafficking, assault, armed robbery, home invasions, kidnapping, auto theft, and murder. The gang members are also known for rival gang retaliation over drug territory.

Gang Identifiers:

- 3NI (three fingers hand sign)
- Trini
- 7 Poppin' all Droppin' Nation
- DPL: Dios Patria Libertad (God, Country, Freedom)
- OT (Original Trinitario) / 16 red beads, 16 blue beads, 5 or 7 white beads, 2 green
- Colors: Green
- Dominican Republic Flag



TRINITARIOS

Also known as: Asociación Ñeta, Asociación Pro-Derecho Confinados

History: Ñeta is a prison gang that formed in Puerto Rico in the 1970's to address inmate rights and issues in the local prison system.

Membership/Hierarchy: Ñeta is one of the largest prison gangs in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican chapter of Ñeta is solely prison-based while mainland US chapters exist both inside and outside prisons. Mainland chapters are organized by state and are independent of one another. In Puerto Rico, all prison chapters report to a single centralized governing authority. Most Ñeta members are Puerto Rican males between the ages of 17 and 35; however, some chapters accept Caucasian and Black members.

Location: In Puerto Rico, Ñeta chapters exist in at least half of the territory's 51 prisons. In the mainland, they exist throughout the Mid-Atlantic, New England, New York/New Jersey, Southeast, and Great Lakes region.

Criminal Activity: Ñeta is one of the most violent prison gangs and receives its income primarily through drug trafficking. Other criminal activities include assault, auto theft, burglary, violent crime, extortion, firearms trafficking, money laundering, witness intimidation, and prison disturbance.

Gang Identifiers:

- Tattoos: machetes, praying hands, handcuffs with chains, rosaries, phrases ("Perdon Madre Mia" and variations with the word "Ñeta")
- Colors (US): white, red, blue, or black
- Jewelry: beaded, rosary-like necklaces
- Hand sign: extended and crossed middle and index fingers with others curled toward palm (also seen in graffiti and tattoos, wrapped in the Puerto Rican flag)



ÑETAS

Also known as: Norte 14

History: The term Norteño (meaning Northerner) originated in the 1960's in the California prison system after a Hispanic inmate from northern California was killed by a member of the California Mexican Mafia (La Eme). This incident, known as "The War of the Shoes," led to the formation of La Nuestra Familia (NF) and the birth of Sureños and Norteños. NF formed not only in reaction to the killing, but also because northern California Hispanic inmates were tired of suffering abuse at the hands of La Eme. On the formation of NF, all Hispanic gang members entering the California prison system were expected to set aside their individual street names and rivalries and align as either Sureños under La Eme or as Norteños under NF, which is a practice that still exists today.

Membership/Hierarchy: The gang is well organized and has a written constitution stating that the leadership resides in California's Pelican Bay State Prison. All gang members are accountable to this leadership, though a small minority follows the Norteños' previous leadership, which is imprisoned in Colorado.

Location: Norteños are most prevalent in northern California but are found throughout the Western United States, as well as in Texas, the Midwest, and New York.

Criminal Activity: Norteños are involved in a host of criminal activities that include but are not limited to: drugs and weapons crimes, murder, theft, assault, sexual assault, vandalism, carjacking, extortion, theft, document fraud, illegal gaming, prostitution, home invasions, and robbery. A Norteño gangster rap group produced and released two CDs entitled "Gun" and "Quete" to raise funds for the gang.

Gang Identifiers:

- Colors: red (red shoes with white shoelaces, white shoes with red shoelaces, bandanas, jerseys, caps, long canvas belt that is looped and hanging to the front or side)
- Number 14 and variations of 14 (X4, XIV, Mayan symbol for 14)
- Letter N
- 4 dots (sometimes with a single dot to the side)
- Northern star
- Huelga bird (symbol of the United Farm Workers' Association)



OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

One Percenters: Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG'S) are also commonly known as "One Percenters." This refers to an incident in Hollister, California in 1947 where a motorcycle rally turned violent. After the rally the American Motorcycle Association issued a statement saying essentially that 99% of people who ride motorcycles are good law abiding citizens, that the remaining 1% are the outlaws who give everyone a bad name. Some clubs then adopted the 1% symbol as their own. OMG's will wear a 1% Diamond on their colors usually over the left breast. You will also see the 1% symbol used on jewelry, clothing and tattoos.



There are numerous 1% clubs around the country below are listed some of the major ones.



Bandidos MC



Hells Angels MC



Outlaws MC



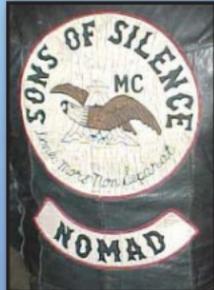
Pagans MC



Wheels of Soul MC



Mongols MC



Sons of Silence MC



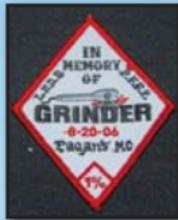
Vagos MC

Identifiers: The jackets or vests that members of OMG's wear are called "colors". They are also referred to as "rags" and "cuts." These vests are sleeveless and collarless leather or denim. They are considered sacred to the members. The "colors" are the property of the club not the individual member.

- Top Rocker - bearing the clubs name, Hells Angels, Outlaws etc.

- Center Patch – the clubs logo, Death Head, Sutar, Charlie etc.
- Bottom Patch – the chapter location, usually a state or city or country. An exception to this is the Pagans who have an MC for motorcycle club. Some clubs have Nomad chapters.

Members of law enforcement should also be aware of patches on a member's "colors", they can show a persons status in the club, length of time in the club, and rivalries with other clubs. Most clubs will wear some type of "memory patch" to honor a member who has died. The member wearing the patch must have been a member of the club when the person died in order to wear the patch. Based on this you can get a good idea how long someone has been in the club.



The Pagans are bitter rivals of the Hells Angels and show it with patches.



Kills Hells Angels
On Sight



No 81



Sergeant
at Arms



The following two patches are of special interest the Filthy Few patch and the Dequiallo patch both worn by the Hells Angels. At one time it was thought that to wear a Filthy Few patch a member had killed someone for the club, it is now thought that the member has done some type of extraordinary act for the club (usually violent). And probably the patch that should concern law enforcement the most is the Dequiallo patch; this means that a club member has assaulted a member of law enforcement.



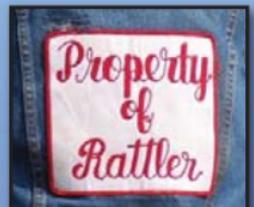
Tattoos are also something to be aware of. Many OMG members are tattooed with both club tattoos and other biker related tats. Tattoos should be documented and photographed when possible. Clubs have rules on tattoos, types of tats, time frames as to when a member may get a certain tattoo. Acronyms are also a common tattoo with the 1%'ers, GFPD – God Forgives Pagan's Don't, AFFA – Angel Forever Forever Angel are examples.



Most OMG clubs have rules about the type of motorcycle that can be driven. Harley Davidson is the most common bike used but other American made motorcycles or special construction bikes are used. Pay attention to their bikes, they will hide weapons on them. You will also see club identifiers on some of their motorcycles.



Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs are male only; women cannot be members of the club. The clubs have rules about the status of females. Wives and steady girlfriends will wear "Property of..." colors. Most will be Property of an individual member; the Outlaws women wear Property of Outlaws, indicating they are the property of the club. These "old ladies" will perform duties for the club. They also frequently will carry weapons and narcotics for the members.



Membership / Structure: Most of these clubs have national officers, consisting of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms. Some clubs have national enforcers as well. They also have essentially the same structure for local chapters of the club. The 1% clubs have by-laws or constitutions spelling out the clubs rules.

Membership in an OMG varies among the different clubs. The clubs have a prospect period or a probationary period. The prospect period varies from club to club, the Warlocks in Philadelphia have a 12 week period, and the Hells Angels can be over a year. There are also "hangarounds", males who have no official status with the club but will associate with them, run errands, attend parties etc.

The OMG's will have what are called "duck clubs" they could be compared to a minor league team. Many members of these "duck clubs" aspire to join the 1% club that they are affiliated with. There are also support clubs, these support clubs will usually associate with the dominant 1% club in a particular area.

Criminal Activity: There are no limits to the type of criminal activity OMG members may be or have been involved with. Murder, assault, kidnapping, arson, rape, narcotics trafficking, robbery, extortion, vehicle theft, firearms, explosives and prostitution are just some of the crimes that they have and are involved with.

Officer Safety: Many of the members of these clubs have had some type of military training thus they are experienced with firearms and explosives as well as self defense. They pass this training on to other members of the club. Besides firearms, knives etc. many members will carry some type of everyday item to use as a weapon. The Hells Angels like to carry ball peen hammers, the Pagan's like carved walking sticks (axe handles). Some clubs carry claw hammers and Maglites. Officers should also be aware of trucks or vans following these clubs on their runs. These are commonly called "crash trucks." They are used to carry tools and parts for the cycles, but they also are used to stash weapons and drugs. At different events like Toy Runs, clubs will also send members not wearing "colors" into the crowds to conduct surveillance and counter surveillance.

WHITE SUPREMACIST₂₃

Also known as (separately): Skinheads, Neo-Nazis

History: White Supremacist groups emerged early on in American history as proponents of white racial superiority but became notorious in the 1960s with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in the South and the Aryan Brotherhood in San Quentin Prison in California.

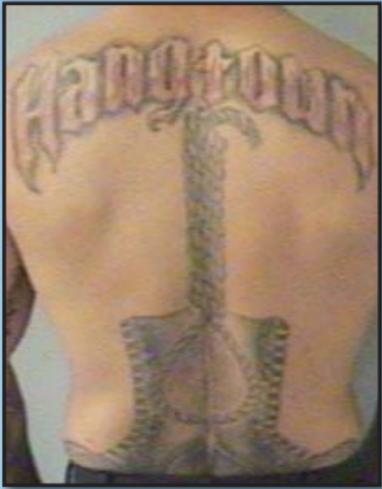
Membership/Hierarchy: While there is no single organizational grouping of all of the white supremacist groups, the most prominent include the Aryan Nation, Aryan Brotherhood, American Nazi Party, Ku Klux Klan, Skinheads, Nazi Low Riders, White Aryan Resistance, Aryan Warriors, and Public Enemy Number One. Membership in white supremacy gangs is very fluid and belonging to multiple gangs is not uncommon. Most white supremacists are Caucasian males but there is a growing Caucasian female population.

Location: The largest concentration of white supremacist gangs is in prison populations in California and the western United States; however, white supremacist gangs exist nationwide as both prison and street gangs.

Criminal Activity: White supremacist gangs are very violent and involved in a number of criminal activities, including violent crime, property crime, fraud, extortion, auto theft, burglary, identity theft, weapons and drug trafficking. White supremacist groups emphasize internal discipline and will target members who break code. Public Enemy Number One has compiled a "hit list" of law enforcement officers and a gang prosecutor.

Gang Identifiers:

- Celtic cross
- Ku Klux Klan blood drop
- Nazi swastika
- Shaved heads
- Tattoos of the words "Skins," "Aryans," "AB", lightning bolts, or other variations of gang names



WHITE SUPREMACIST₂₄

NATIVE AMERICAN²⁵

History: Gang activity in most parts of Indian Country began emerging in the late 1980's and early 1990's, but has increased significantly in many tribal communities, as well as within many state and federal correctional facilities, over the last 5-10 years.

Membership/Hierarchy: Most Indian Country gangs tend to be small, loose knit, autonomous and leaderless. However, in recent years a trend has developed reflecting a stronger organizational base within certain Native American gangs, both on the street (i.e. Native Mob) and in prison (i.e. Warrior Society and Indian Brotherhood). The majority of gang-involved individuals in tribal communities are males between the ages of 12 and 19, although female activity involvement is increasing as well.

Location: The majority of gang activity in Indian Country is occurring on reservations in the Southwest, although the Northwest and Midwest regions of Indian Country have seen dramatic increases in gang activity over the past 5-10 years. Native American gang activity is also increasing in both state and federal correctional facilities in these regions of the country as well.

Criminal Activity: The majority of criminal activity among Native American gangs involves property crime, alcohol and drug offenses and threatening/intimidating behavior. However, violent criminal activity is increasing, mainly within reservation communities that are in close proximity to urban areas, but also in certain rural tribal communities. Illegal drug activity tends to remain localized, with usage and low-level distribution activity occurring within certain Native American gangs. However, intelligence and investigative information point to increasing activity among organized drug trafficking organizations targeting Indian Country for the facilitation of drug distribution activity, both within and outside of Indian Country.

Gang Identifiers: Most gangs in Indian Country are of a "hybrid" form, and tend to take on the representing characteristics (names/symbols/colors) of large urban gangs. Some gangs in Indian Country, however, will identify with unique names and markings, including using traditional cultural markings to mask gang behavior, or using burning and branding as a means to prove their worthiness to be "gangster warriors."



Also known as: Folk

History: Folk Nation began as an affiliation of Chicago street gangs in the 1980s. The increased number of gang members entering the Chicago prison population created a need for immediate means of identifying allies from rivals.

Membership/Hierarchy: Folk Nation is not a gang itself; rather, it is one of the nation's two major alliances of street gangs. Major Folk gangs include La Raza, Spanish Cobras, Spanish Gangsters, Latin Eagles, Two Sixers, International Posse, Simon City Royals, and the various factions of the Disciples Nation. Folk Nation maintains a charter and a strict code of conduct driven by the "All for One and One for All" philosophy. Though not considered a traditional Folk Nation gang, some Crips sets may show alliance to Folk Nation Gangs.

Location: While most concentrated in Chicago and the Midwest, Folk Nation gangs exist nationwide.

Criminal Activity: Folk Nation gangs are cumulatively involved in a myriad of criminal activity, including violent crime, auto theft, fraud, money laundering, weapons trafficking, home invasion, burglary, extortion, and drug trafficking.

Gang Identifiers: Within Folk Nation, individual gangs maintain their own identifiers but use some common symbols to identify their affiliation with the alliance.

- 6 pointed star
- Pitchfork
- Heart (alone or with wings, devil's tail, and/or horns)
- Number 6
- "BOS" or "BOSS"
- Wear everything to the right (caps, bandannas, belt buckles, rolled pants leg, jewelry)/communicate with right hand



FOLK NATION

Also Known As: TRG (Tiny Rascal Gang)

BIS (Boys In Style)

ABZ (Asian Boyz)

History: Through research, it has been determined that Asian Street Gangs were formed due to social, economic and racial issues. Law enforcement in America has struggled to recognize the differences in Asian Street Gangs in the same manner that Black and Hispanic Street Gangs have been recognized. This has caused confusion with identification and prosecution. The most recognizable Asian Gangs in America are defined as Tiny Rascal Gang, Boys In Style and Asian Boyz. Asian Gangs are not turf orientated like most Black, Mexican and Hispanic Gangs. The most problematic Asian gang is the Tiny Rascal Gang (TRG). They are represented by the wearing of blue and grey rags/bandanas. The Asian versions of the Crips are not aligned with the Traditional or Non-Traditional Crips from the West Coast or East Coast. However, members of the Tiny Rascal Gang are aligned with similar Asian Gangs on both coasts.

Membership/Hierarchy: Asian Gangs are not structured like mid-west or east coast gangs. Asian Gangs leadership is linear by design, to assist in insulation of members for reasons of prosecution.

Location: Asian Gangs are organized in cities and communities where there are large Asian speaking communities. Asians as a grouping will include but not be limited to Laotian, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Koreans and Phillipiano. Asian Gangs have been recorded operating in Massachusetts, New York, Washington DC, Maryland, Connecticut, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Texas, Oregon and California.

Criminal Activity: Asian Gang members are involved in home invasions, robberies of commercial businesses, murder, extortion and drugs.

Gang Identifiers: Asian Gang Member's tattoos vary from coast to coast consisting of dragons, panthers, tigers, flying eagles and sailing ships. Burn marks are also used as gang identifiers by this group.



ASIAN BOY CRIPS

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bôW DôWn Tô Thè HİGèR rÄcè

MEMBERS.TRIPOD.COM-VIET959 THANGS THANGS.HTM



ASIAN GANGS

Also known as: People

History: People Nation began as an affiliation of Chicago street gangs in the 1980s. People Nation consists of gangs that originally aligned with the Black P Stone Nation. As with the Folk Nation alliance, many of these groups formed as a method of protection within the prison system.

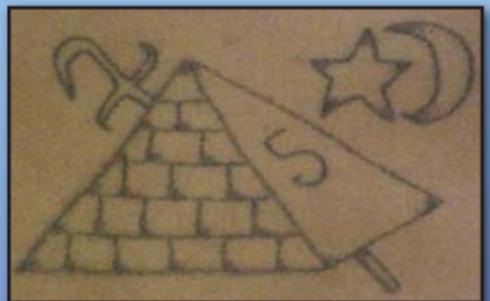
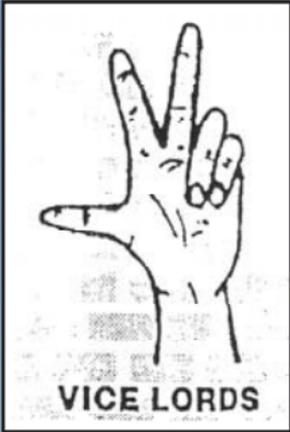
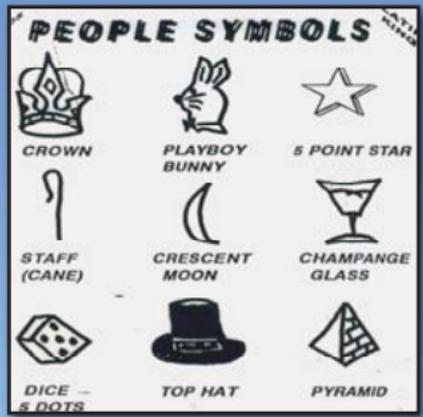
Membership/Hierarchy: People Nation is one of the two major Chicago-based street gang alliances. People Nation gangs include Latin Kings, Vice Lords, Spanish Lords, El Rukns, Bishops, Gaylords, Latin Counts, and Kents. People Nation maintains a charter and a strict code of conduct driven by the "All is All" and "All is Well" philosophies.

Location: People Nation gangs are concentrated in Chicago and the Midwest, but exist nationwide.

Criminal Activity: People Nation gangs are cumulatively involved in a myriad of criminal activity, including violent crime, auto theft, fraud, money laundering, weapons trafficking, home invasion, burglary, extortion, and drug trafficking.

Gang Identifiers: Each gang maintains their own identifiers but as with the Folk Nation, the gangs also use symbols to identify their affiliation with the alliance.

- 5 pointed star and the number 5
- Crown
- Crescent
- Pyramid
- Dice
- Bunny head
- Wear everything to the left (caps, bandanas, belt buckles, rolled pants leg, jewelry)/communicate with left hand



ADVISORY BOARD 33.

National Youth Gang Center
www.iir.com/nygc/

Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms
www.atf.gov/

Department Of Justice
www.usdoj.gov/

Federal Bureau of Investigation
www.fbi.gov/

Housing and Urban Development
www.hud.gov/

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
www.ice.gov/

Office of National Drug Control Policy
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/

National Drug Intelligence Center
www.usdoj.gov/ndic/

Bureau of Prisons
www.bop.gov/

Office of Justice Programs
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/

