GANG AWARENESS
LIVES IN THE BALANCE
THIS TRAINING WILL HELP YOU...

• DISTINGUISH THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “LIFESTYLE” AND “LOOK” VS. ACTUAL GANG “LIFE”

• DEFINE WHAT IS A “CRIMINAL STREET GANG”? 

• DISCUSS THE MOTIVATION TO JOIN GANGS 

• RECOGNIZE THE DANGER AND CONSEQUENCES OF GANGS ON OUR LOVED ONES AND SOCIETY 

• UNDERSTAND THE TYPES OF GANGS IN OUR COMMUNITY 

• LEARN HOW TO RESIST GANGS 

• GET RESOURCES AND REFERRALS
DOES

HOLLYWOOD,

MUSIC AND

MEDIA HAVE AN

INFLUENCE?
MUSIC?
MUSIC?
In 2010

5 murders in El Paso...

3,500 murders in Juarez.
MOVIES?

STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON

SCARFACE

BOYZ N THE HOOD

It ain't no fairy tale.
CULTURAL STYLE INFLUENCES?

This is a music group

This is a fashion model

These are two “blokes” from the U.K. not L.A!
WHAT IS A GANG?
DEFINITION OF A GANG?

Arizona Revised Statutes 13-105.8

"Criminal street gang" means an ongoing formal or informal association of persons in which members or associates individually or collectively engage in the commission, attempted commission, facilitation or solicitation of any felony act and that has at least one individual who is a criminal street gang member.
DEFINITION OF A GANG?

Arizona Revised Statutes 13-105.9

"Criminal street gang member" means an individual to whom at least two of the following seven criteria that indicate criminal street gang membership apply:

• (A) SELF-PROCLAMATION.
• (B) WITNESS TESTIMONY OR OFFICIAL STATEMENT.
• (C) WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE.
• (D) PARAPHERNALIA OR PHOTOGRAPHS.
• (E) TATTOOS.
• (F) CLOTHING OR COLORS.
• (G) ANY OTHER INDICIA OF STREET GANG MEMBERSHIP.
WHY JOIN UP?

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?
WHY DO PEOPLE JOIN GANGS?

• SENSE OF BELONGING
• IDENTITY OR RECOGNITION
• PERCEIVED POWER
• EXCITEMENT AND FUN
• INTIMIDATION OR PEER PRESSURE
• PROTECTION
• COMPANIONSHIP
• ATTENTION OR STATUS
OTHER CAUSATIVE FACTORS

• POOR FAMILY STRUCTURE
• LACK OF POSITIVE ROLE MODELS
• LIVING IN GANG INFESTED AREA
• FAMILY MEMBER IN A GANG
• DOING POORLY IN SCHOOL
• LACK OF POSITIVE PEER GROUPS
• TOO MUCH UNSUPERVISED TIME

• MEDIA THAT GLORIFIES GANGS
• DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
• LACK OF SELF-WORTH
• POOR DECISION-MAKING SKILLS
• LOW ECONOMIC LIVING
• PARENT IN DENIAL OR ENABLING
MISCONCEPTIONS

• THE GANG PROVIDES PROTECTION

• THE GANG WILL GET YOU RESPECT

• THE GANG WILL BE YOUR FAMILY AND WON’T LET YOU DOWN
WHAT DOES IT COST TO JOIN?

IT REALLY ONLY ENDS 3 WAYS...
HER FATHER WON'T BE COMING HOME... EVER.
SHE WENT OUT TO PLAY BASKETBALL...

SHOT 3 TIMES.
HE WAS NEVER
IN A GANG...

BUT HE’LL NEVER
WALK AGAIN, EITHER.
THIS GUN BELONGED TO...

... A 14-YEAR OLD GANG MEMBER.
THE OTHER OPTION?
LIVING IN A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD...
WITH A NEW
PEER GROUP...
AND A FEW CLOSE FRIENDS...
OTHER EFFECTS OF GANGS

• AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED: “THE “3-D’S” = DEATH, DISABLED, OR DOING TIME.

• SUBSTANCE ABUSE

• DRUG SALES

• RAPE (“Sexed in”)

• ESTRANGED FROM FAMILY
  • OR PASSING IT ON TO THEIR CHILDREN (GENERATIONAL)

• ROBBERY

• DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS

• A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE (“Jumped in”)

• MURDER
THE NUMBERS

According to the FBI* there are:

- **33,000** violent gangs in America
- **1.4 million** gang members in America

In the City of Mesa it is estimated there are:

- **527** gangs contacted in police records
- **70-80** Gangs that are considered Mesa gangs
- **About 4,000** gang members in Mesa*

*Note: FBI and other figures may be subject to change and are from the given perspective.
TYPES OF GANGS

Street Gangs  Prison Gangs  Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs
STREET GANGS

SOUTHSIDE MESA

WESTSIDE MESA
STREET GANGS

WESTSIDE CITY CRIPS
OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS
OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS
PRISON GANGS

Mexican Mafia
“Eme”

Warrior Society

Peckerwoods
SIGNS OF GANG INVOLVEMENT
WARNING SIGNS

• Developing bad attitude towards family, school and authorities

• Changes in appearance with special haircuts, eyebrow markings or tattoos

• Gang graffiti on folders, desks, walls, and buildings

• Clothing of all one color or style

• Using hand signs
WARNING SIGNS

• Staying out later than usual
• Carrying weapons
• Withdrawing from family activities
• Spending time with undesirable people
• Having more Money and Possessions
• Changing friends
WARNING SIGNS
WARNING SIGNS
WARNING SIGNS
WARNING SIGNS
WARNING SIGNS
WARNING SIGNS
WARNING SIGNS

The next generation...

How long can this last?
HOW TO RESIST GANGS
HOW TO RESIST

• Intervention from parents, family and friends
  • Spend quality time with them – consistently
  • Talk to them and be an Active listener
  • Reassure that you can and will be there to help
  • Be a positive example and role model
    • They will Do what you Do, more than Do what you Say!
• Establish rules, be consistent and follow through with meaningful and appropriate discipline
HOW TO RESIST

- Intervention from parents, family and friends
  - Limit unsupervised time
  - KNOW, KNOW, KNOW their friends
    - and their friends’ parents
  - When they’re young – choose their friends
- Offer praise and encouragement for positive behavior
- Involve them in extracurricular activities
  - And attend them!
HOW TO RESIST

• Positive involvement in school clubs and sports

• Broaden their worldview through education

• Find positive Role Models

• Participate in Boys/Girls Club, Church Youth Group and other Positive interactive groups

• REACH OUT for HELP!  ... You are NOT ALONE.
RESOURCES AND REFERRALS

• Teen Lifeline – crisis line for teens/parents
  www.Teenlifeline.org (602)248-8336 (TEEN)

• Kaity’s Way Youth Advisory Council
  www.Kaitysway.org (602)740-2734

• Tumbleweed Center for Youth
  www.Tumbleweed.org (602)271-9904
RESOURCES AND REFERRALS

• New Pathways for Youth
  www.npfy.org  (602)258-1012
• ICAN  www.icanaz.org  (480)821-4207
• Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley
  www.clubzona.org  (480) 820-3688
• YMCA  www.valleyymca.org  (602) 212-5163
• A New Leaf
  www.turnanewleaf.org  (480) 969-4024
RESOURCES AND REFERRALS

• Mesa Parks and Recreation
  www.mesaaz.gov

• Juvenile Probation
  www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/JuvenileProbation

• Mesa Public Schools Prevention Programs
  http://www.mpsaz.org/guidance/prevention_programs/

• M.E.S.A. Program (Making Every Student Accountable)
  http://mesaaz.gov/residents/police/divisions/m-e-s-a-program-1064
QUESTIONS?
Gang Awareness

Presented by the Mesa Police Department and the Gang Investigations Section