



## What is a criminal gang?

It is any informal or formal ongoing organization, association, or group that has as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal or delinquent acts, and that consists of three or more persons who have a common name, or common identifying signs, colors, or symbols, including but not limited to, terrorist organizations and hate groups.

-2009 Florida Statutes  
Chapter 874.03

## Websites with gang information and local activities for youth:

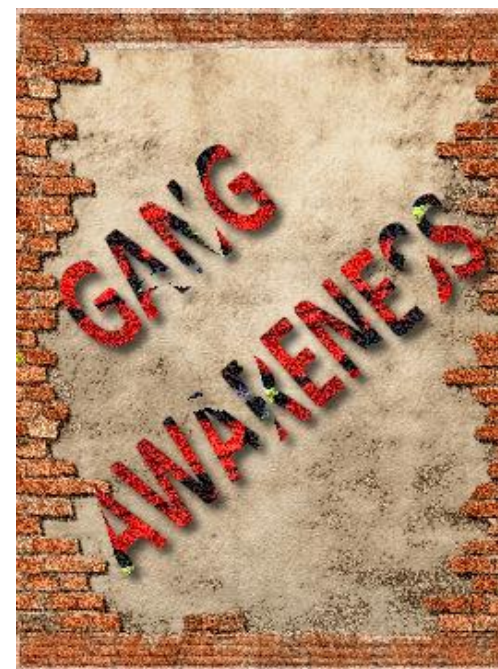
- ❖ [www.knowgangs.com](http://www.knowgangs.com)
- ❖ [www.safeyouth.com](http://www.safeyouth.com)
- ❖ [www.iir.com/nygc](http://www.iir.com/nygc)
- ❖ [www.talgangs.com](http://www.talgangs.com)
- ❖ [info@TheLookUp941.org](mailto:info@TheLookUp941.org)

(interactive guide to everything there is to know about gangs)

(Search over 300 organizations and 1600 local activities!)



Prepared by the Youth Advisory Board  
with the cooperation of  
The Office of the City Auditor and Clerk



**Courtesy of the City  
of Sarasota Youth  
Advisory Board**

## GANG STATISTICS

- The average age of a gang member is 14-17 years old
- Gangs are starting to recruit members who are still in elementary school
- Nationally, between 5% and 7% of all homicides are gang related
- Gangs contribute to the following national crimes:
  - 62.5% of graffiti
  - 58% of criminal damage to property
  - 57.2% of violence
  - 52.3% of drug sales
  - 37.5 % of burglary
  - 29.6% of car theft
  - 24.4% of drive-by shootings
  - 23.3% of retail theft
  - 21.6% of robbery
  - 5.7% of arson

## WARNING SIGNS

- Decline in grades/interest in school
- Truancy (skips school)
- Lack of hobbies or too much leisure time
- Frequent contact with authority figures or police
- Draws gang insignias/symbols
- Has problems at home
- Lives in a neighborhood where gangs exist
- Friends are gang members
- Begins dressing in traditional gang clothes
- Has unexplained money, jewelry or other items

## LOCAL GANGS

- 8 Ball Posse
- Westside Locos
- 24<sup>th</sup> Street boys
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Line
- Sur 13
- Norte 14

## LOCAL OUTREACH AGENCIES

- **YMCA Targeted Outreach Strategic Approaches** (941) 955-8194
- **Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County**  
5211 Manatee Ave. W.  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
(941) 761-2582
- **Police Athletic League**  
2075 Bahia Vista St.  
Sarasota, FL  
(941) 316-8108
- **Camp X-RAYD (eXamine Reality About Your Decisions)**  
Contact either:
  - Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Police Athletic League  
(941) 316-8108
  - Teen Court  
(941) 861-8406
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Inc.**  
2831 Ringling Blvd.  
Sarasota, FL 34237  
(941) 331-4376
- **Operation Serving Children**  
45317 Fruitville Road #105  
Sarasota, FL 34232  
(941) 378-9755