

CHOSEN

GANG EDITION

Gang Terminology

Bangin' — Refers to criminal or violent activities perpetuated by gang members, or to the simple act of being involved in a gang.

Barrio — Hispanic term referring to neighborhood.

Blood in — The act of initiation that commonly involves the spilling of one's own blood, or being forced to spill someone else's blood as an act of loyalty to your new gang.

Blood out — Gang membership is for life. Gangs commonly say the only way out is through blood, i.e., death (of natural causes or by being killed).

Bust a cap — To shoot at someone, including rival gang members.

Colors — The colors chosen to represent the gang.

Contract — An ordered homicide or hit on someone's life.

Dissed out/Dissin' — To be disrespected; to disrespect someone else.

Down — To be cool with something or loyal to your gang (ie: "down with the set").

Drop colors—To stop being associated with a gang.

Flashing — To display hand signs associated with a specific gang.

Gang — A group of three or more individuals who adopt a group identity which they use to create a climate of fear through intimidation and criminal acts. Some commonly known gangs are MS-13, Bloods, Crips, Sur-13, Mexican Mafia, and 18th Street.

Gangsta/G/Banger — Gang member.

Get down — To get in a fight.

Green light — The order or permission to kill someone.

Hittin' up — To put up graffiti to mark your territory or promote your gang.

Homey/Homeboy — Other gang members.

Initiation — The act of introducing a new member to the gang; can occur in a variety of ways, but is most often a test of the youth's dedication; youth may be "jumped in" (beating), "sexed in" (gang rape), "blessed in" (allowed in through a familial gang member) or sent out on "mission" (to put a hit on somebody).

Mission — A contract hit, drive by shooting or other criminal act the gang member is ordered to complete.

Nation — An alliance or affiliation of many gangs; two main "Nations" in the U.S. are:

1. **Folk nation** — Includes the Gangster Disciples, Black Disciples, Latin Disciples and more. Two common symbols used are a six-point star or a pitchfork.
2. **People nation** — Includes the Vice Lords, P. Stones, Latin Kings and more. Several common symbols used relate to the number five, e.g., five-point star or crown, a dice with five dots.

Put in work — To act violence on an enemy (ie: shooting or other mission).

Queen — Female gang member.

Set/Clique/Hood/Crew — Subsets of a larger gang; may also refer to localized gangs unaffiliated with regional, national or transnational gang.

Snitch — A gang member who cooperates with law enforcement or other individuals to provide information on the gang.

Soldier — A gang member that performs crimes as ordered.

Turf — The area of a neighborhood or community that is controlled by a gang.