

Gangs in Tippecanoe County

Types of Gangs¹

"FOLKS" Gangs

"PEOPLE" Gangs

The Left and Right Rule

There are many different types of gangs i.e., racial gangs, prison gangs, motorcycle gangs, small geographical gangs, etc. Typically there may be numerous types of different gangs throughout any community. The following have shown a presence in Tippecanoe County.

Some of these gangs stem from prison gangs that have returned to the streets and neighborhoods where they originally started. These gangs have different religious beliefs and/or code of honor, manifestos, and/or mission statements. Because of the differences and alliances to their perspective gangs, the members show their affiliation by dress, writings, tattoos, graffiti, etc. These types of behavior are known as the **LEFT & RIGHT rule**. By dressing, writing, tattoos, etc., the member shows his or her alliance to the gang and shows rival gangs his or her gang designation.

- **In order to identify potential gang members, you first must understand some basic information about gangs. Gangs will not discriminate between age, sex, or nationality.**
- **Gangs will usually identify with two main alliances. These are known as "PEOPLE" and "FOLKS".**

The **"PEOPLE" gangs** wear their identifiers to the **LEFT side of the body**. This would include, but is not limited to, hats, jewelry, or a rolled-up left pant leg. "PEOPLE" also represent their affiliation with the number 5 and/or the 5-pointed star. In their drawings, a 5-pointed crown, pyramid, top hat, crescent moon, or a rabbit head with straight ears may be seen. An upside down pitchfork is used to show disrespect to the rival "FOLKS" affiliation.

The **"FOLKS" gangs** wear their identifiers to the **RIGHT side of the body**. This includes, but is not limited to, hats, jewelry, or a rolled-up right pant leg. They represent their affiliation with the number 6 and/or the 6-pointed Star of David. Their drawings may consist of an upward pitchfork, a winged heart, or a rabbit head with one bent ear and they will draw an upside down 5 or crown to show disrespect to the rival "PEOPLE" gangs.

A few street gangs belong to neither the "FOLKS" nor the "PEOPLE". These independent gangs feel they do not need other gang alliances or simply want to form their own affiliation. These groups are often made up of members of several different gangs and refer to themselves as "Party Crews".

Gangs will change as necessary in order to survive. In recent years, gangs have shifted to moneymaking crimes. More and more gangs are competing in the illegal markets of drug and gun sales. Many are found to be involved in robberies, burglaries, car theft rings, and car jacking. Members of the "PEOPLE" faction and members of the "FOLKS" faction usually will not join forces but an exception may be made if there is an opportunity for outstanding profits. Essentially, the general rule on the street is "if it doesn't make dollar (money), it doesn't make sense."

¹ Hammond Gang Suppression Unit, Hammond Police Department; <http://www.hammondpolice.com/gangp1.htm>

"FOLKS" Gangs

Black Disciple Gangster Nation

Initials:

G.D., B.G.D., and B.G.D.N.

Colors:

Black and Blue

Represents:

Everything to the right side of the body, pitchforks pointing upward, flaming winged heart with a tail, six-pointed star (Star of David).

Crimes Associated With:

Narcotic trafficking, assaults, stolen autos, armed robberies, home invasions, drive-by shootings, weapon sales, and murder.

In the 1960's, David Barksdale formed the Black Gangster Disciple Nation as a rival to the Blackstone Rangers (now known as the El Rukens). After the untimely death of David Barksdale, the gang divided into two groups. Larry Hoover started and still leads the Gangster Disciples, and Jerome Freeman organized the Black Disciples. These two gangs remain separated but stand strong under the six principles of King David Barksdale: Life, Loyalty, Knowledge, Wisdom, Understanding, and Love.



Black Disciples

Initials:

B.D.

Colors:

Black and Blue

Represents:

Everything to the right side of the body, pitchforks pointing upward, and with the six-point star (Star of David).

Crimes Associated With:

Narcotic sales, stolen autos, armed robberies, home invasions, drive-by shootings, weapon sales, and murders.

Jerome "King Shorty" Freeman gained control of the Black Disciples following the death of David Barksdale. In 1977, Jerome Freeman was sentenced to 10 years for an armed robbery. During this time, the Black Disciples followed under the beliefs of the Black Gangster Disciple Nation. Jerome Freeman only served five years, was released, and regained control of the Black Disciples making themselves an independent gang.



Spanish Gangster Disciples

Initials:

S.G.D.

Colors:

Black and Blue

Represents:

Everything to the right side of the body, heart with devil horns on top, crossed pitchforks, and the six-pointed star (Star of David).

Crimes Associated With:

Narcotic sales, assaults, drive-by shootings, auto theft, burglary, and murder.

The Spanish Gangster Disciples were formed on the South Side of Chicago in the early 1980's. Membership is predominantly Hispanic males, but does consist of some White and Black males.



Maniac Latin Disciples

Initials:

M.L.D.

Colors:

Blue and Black

Represents:

Everything to the right side of the body, display of heart with devil horns and a tail, pitchforks upward, and often a backwards Swastika.

Crimes Associated With:

Narcotic Sales, assaults, weapon sales, and drive-by shootings.

Founded in the 1970's and originating in Chicago at Rockwell and Potomac, this gang has an active role in the sale of street narcotics. They also have an ongoing feud with all "People" gangs. Often in their graffiti, a backward swastika is used. This pays honors to the original leader whose street name was "Hitler", and was killed by the Latin Kings. The swastika is drawn backwards so that the gang is not mistaken for a White Supremacist Group.



Two-Six Nation

Initials:

T.S.N.

Colors:

Black and Tan

Represents:

Everything to the right side of the body, 2-6, dice showing the 2 and 6, bunny head with a bent ear.

Crimes Associated With:

Narcotic sales, drive-by shootings, and assaults.

In the 1970's under the leadership of David Ayala, the Two-Sixers became a well-organized and well-financed street gang. There has been a long and bitter rivalry with the Latin Kings. This gang is often in the company of Spanish Gangster Disciples and Gangster Disciples.



"PEOPLE" Gangs

Vice Lords

Initials:

V.L., C.V.L., I.V.L.

Colors:

Black and Red, Black and Gold

Represents:

Everything to the left side of the body, 5-pointed star, crescent moons, top hat, cane, gloves, dollar sign \$, or a pyramid.

Crimes Associated With:

Murder, robbery, narcotic sales, weapon sales, intimidation, extortion, and assaults.

This predominantly Black gang originated in the late 1950's in what was called "Charlietown". This "Club" was housed at the Illinois State Training School for Boys in St. Charles, Illinois. Once released from this facility, this "Club" continued on the streets. Vice Lords will associate with Latin Kings gang members.



Latin Kings

Initials:

L.K., A.L.K.N.

Colors:

Black and Gold

Represents:

Everything to the left side of the body, 5-pointed star, 3-5 pointed crown, 5-dots, and a king's head with a crown (known as the master).

Crimes Associated With:

Narcotic sales, assaults, drive-by shootings, weapon sales, and murder.

The Latin Kings are a vindictive group who take pride in aggressive acts against anyone signifying under the 6-pointed affiliation. Latin Kings adhere to a code of "Machismo", contributes to their display of violence. This group is made up of Hispanic, White, and Black individuals. Females, known as Latin Queens, have a prominent rule in the organization.



Black Peace Stone

Initials:

B.P.S.N.

Colors:

Black and Red, Black and Green

Represents:

Everything to the left side of the body, 5-pointed star, half-crescent moon, and a pyramid with 21 blocks.

Crimes Associated With:

Narcotic sales, assaults, drive-by shootings, and murder.

Founded in Chicago in the mid 1960's, Jeff Fort headed this organization. Fort later renamed the gang the "El Rukens", but was changed back after the incarceration of Fort. This organization has been seen through history as one of the most mature and sophisticated gangs around.



Brown Pride Locos

Initials:

B.P.L.

Colors:

Brown and Tan

Represents:

Everything to the left side of the body, 5-pointed star, shirts printed with "Brown Pride".

Crimes Associated With:

Mischief, narcotic sales, assaults.

This party associates with "People" faction, particularly with the Latin Kings. This gang opposes any member of its rival gang, the Gangster Disciples. This gang is willing to assist the Latin Kings in any situation.



Four Corner Hustlers

Initials:

4CH

Colors:

Black and Red, Black and White, Black and Gold

Represents:

Everything to the left side of the body, dollar signs \$, martini glass, bunny head with straight ears.

Crimes Associated With:

Assaults drive-by shootings, stolen autos, cocaine distribution, and murder.

A faction of the Vice Lords, they are also referred to as the "Solid Four". Made up of juveniles and young adults, its principal leaders are located in Chicago. The suburbs have their own leadership but show a great deal of respect to the leaders in Chicago who supply shipments of Cocaine. This gang will not instigate a fight but will defend themselves to the death when confronted.

