



SW Weed and Seed Community Safety Bulletin

March 2006

Series V

This is the fifth Bulletin of a monthly series on regular community safety in White Center.

“Gangs create glorified myths that are very attractive to young recruits...”
anonymous

GANG RECRUITMENT TECHNIQUES

The needs and/or purpose of a gang as well as the particular situation determines the methods/techniques that will be used to recruit new members into the gang. The following categories of gang recruitment are fairly common, but the sophistication of the gang will certainly dictate how sophisticated the recruitment techniques will be implemented.

- **SEDUCTION**

For a long time gangs have used this technique to recruit new members. They create glorified myths about the gang that are very attractive to young recruits, and very often these myths become the foundation for young aspirations. The most powerful of these trappings, however, are the promise of money, sex, and glamour.

- **SUBTERFUGE**

Subterfuge is a misrepresentation of what the gang really is and what it stands for. Recruiters use lies and schemes to convince the youth that it really isn't a gang, it's a club or it is really a group of close friends that have to protect themselves against a powerful enemy.

- **OBLIGATION**

Often gang members will do a favor or make a loan of something to a prospective recruit and demand that they give loyalty as payback. Often, these favors come in the form of protection. Girls are sometimes used to promote that sense of obligation.

- **COHERSION**

Forced recruitment is an age-old technique, used most often by large gangs in chronic gang cities. Cohersion is usually accomplished by threats, but physical beatings are used as well.

- **SELF-RECRUITMENT**

For many reasons, youth will make contact with gang members and ask to join the gang. The reasons are many and not always because the individual sees the gang as glamorous. The reason may be one of necessity, money, protection etc.. The reasons may be a combination of all of the trappings mentioned above.

If you have any ideas or topics for upcoming Bulletins, please contact **Roopali Dhingra, MSW, Gang Education & Outreach Specialist** at 206-205-6311 or roopali.dhingra@metrokc.gov.