

Community Based Intervention for Youth

Building a brighter future



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department
Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff

A Message From the Sheriff

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has always taken great pride in our tradition of service to the citizens of Los Angeles County. As leaders in the community, it has become imperative that we reach out to our youth with new and innovative intervention and prevention programs in order to stop the toxic cycle of gangs and drugs which have become ingrained in many of our neighborhoods.

Whether it is the "Success Through Awareness and Resistance," STAR program, educating elementary aged youth on the dangers of drugs and gangs; or the "Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives," VIDA program, assisting "at-risk" youth to make better life choices, our deputies are making a positive difference in the lives of thousands of youth every year.

When our unified community efforts become a seamless fabric of caring service, we can truly inspire our youth to achieve their dreams.

As we continue to develop effective prevention and intervention programs to meet the needs of today's youth, we understand the need to align our efforts and create a clear purpose for all involved. We need to provide a common language for the nation's law enforcement personnel, academic institutions, probation departments and community-based organizations as they respond to the challenging epidemic of juvenile delinquency.



We have already begun this process with the implementation of a POST certified, Juvenile Intervention Instructors Course. This standardized training for law enforcement officers and community based organizations has begun to unify our diverse community efforts by equipping collaborative members with new skill sets and a greater understanding of our youths' needs.

When we equip our community leaders with the tools needed to address today's remarkable youth, we unleash the untapped potential within our personnel and the youth they serve. When our unified community effort becomes a seamless fabric of caring service, we can truly inspire our youth to achieve their dreams.

Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff

Message

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Youth Intervention - A Big Challenge

With the advent of the 911 emergency response system, law enforcement agencies across the country have become the primary, twenty-four hour, seven day a week source for help when families are in crisis.

The fact that **law enforcement is often the first point of contact for juvenile delinquency**, coupled with the huge parental outcry for help, mandates that the Sheriff's Department take a leadership role in creating a productive and effective process to provide or direct families of delinquent youth to appropriate prevention and intervention services.

Figures from the January 2010, California State population bureau report, estimate there are 10,441,080 residents of Los Angeles County spread out over 88 incorporated and 140 unincorporated areas. Los Angeles County's population alone is larger than the populations of 42 states. This massive population is spread out over 4,061 square miles and encompasses one of the most diverse populations in the world with over 147 different language dialects spoken. The 2010 Census estimates that 28% of the population is under the age of 18, which equates to **2,923,502 minors in Los Angeles County**.

The Welfare League of America: Justice Division, Child Maltreatment and Juvenile Delinquency report, states that persons who had been abused or neglected as children had a 59% higher probability of being arrested as juveniles. In the last five years (2006-2010), the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's juvenile-related incident report, reveals there were **51,431 reported cases of suspected child abuse**, 35,599 missing children reports filed, 7,415 sex crimes against children reported and 397 reported suicide attempts by juveniles.

In 2010, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department responded to 32,664 family disturbance calls.

In 2010, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department responded to 32,664 family disturbance calls, more than 10,000 non-criminal juvenile disturbances and over 3,500 disturbance calls involving gang activity. During this same period, **10,672 juveniles were arrested; more than 3,300 for serious or violent crimes**.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has developed several interdepartmental prevention and intervention programs that work together to provide age appropriate services. These programs are designed to address the service needs and risk factors found in today's challenged youth. **The Department's youth programs create new perspectives on how youth interact** with their family, the community and law enforcement personnel. These new relationships allow deputy sheriffs to become mentors, role models, and friends to many of the youth within our communities.

Mission

Communities Working Together for Youth

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has taken a **leadership role** in the development of several community based intervention and prevention efforts. The Department realizes that the community, as a whole, holds the answers that address the many challenges today's youth face. This mindset has led to the development of community based training courses, information sharing technology solutions to collaboration members, and structured prevention and intervention programs that are facilitated with the assistance of community members.

Community Based Intervention is founded on the effective collaboration between every member within the community; schools, churches, probation departments, law enforcement agencies, families, private industry, community based organizations and juvenile court systems. Community based intervention efforts strive to address the whole person; mind, body and spirit.

Often times, when community members find themselves in a crisis moment, law enforcement is the first agency they call. In today's **rapidly changing social landscape**, the roles in which we ask law enforcement officers to fill are expanding far beyond their traditional function of simply enforcing violations of the law. Today, we ask our deputies to intervene in domestic situations where parental control has been lost and children act out as they scream for someone to care.

Community leadership must step forward and create a process that re-directs juvenile delinquent behavior toward positive life choices, instead of incarceration.

The need to build **effective community collaborations** has become apparent. Community leadership must step forward and create a process that re-directs juvenile delinquent behavior toward positive life choices, instead of incarceration. Many of **our children are faced with unbelievably difficult life choices** with little to no guidance and limited educational or experiential background. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department believes that we, as a community, must build our response to address today's risk factors, while we challenge our youth to achieve tomorrow's dreams.

To accomplish this, we must create our programs, systems, and collaborations in such a way that all community members are actively involved. Community leaders must take responsibility in creating effective community based intervention and not only invite the community to join in the effort, but also develop systems that the community as a whole can actively participate in.

"Leadership is communicating to people their worth and potential so clearly that they come to see it in themselves."

Stephen R. Covey

Community

Intervention Based Training

*Sheriff's Deputies and Community Leaders -
Learning Together*

Juvenile Intervention Instructor Course - JIIC-

The Juvenile Intervention Instructor Course is a 40-hour, Peace Officer Standard of Training (POST) certified course, that equips those working within the intervention field with new skill sets. This unique course covers areas such as, facilitation skills, course goal and objective building, intervention philosophy, risk management and documentation.



Child Abuse Investigator Course

The Child Abuse Investigator Course is a 40-hour, POST certified course, that teaches Department members new skill sets related to child abuse intervention and investigations. This course extensively covers areas related to the investigation of child abuse and neglect cases.

Gang Investigator Course

The Gang Investigator Course is a 40-hour, POST certified course that trains officers working within the gang investigation and intervention field. This course covers areas related to the investigation of gang activity and crimes, as well as the part "tagging crews" play in gang recruitment.



Training

Intervention Based Training

*Sheriff's Deputies and Community Leaders -
Learning Together*

Deputy Leadership Institute - DLI

The Deputy Leadership Institute courses are designed to unleash the leadership potential inside each of our law enforcement officers. Every deputy sheriff in Los Angeles County attends the 16-hour DLI course. Department personnel are also given the opportunity to attend the DLI Continuum course throughout their careers.



Pacific Institute - Imagine 21 - Pathways to Excellence

The Pacific Institute has developed an extensive cognitive behavior course that has been adapted to support the community wide effort in addressing gang violence. This course is taught to any community member who is actively involved in bringing positive change to Los Angeles County. This course covers belief structures, self-talk and affirmations, as well as many more self development concepts.

Northpointe - Youth Compas - Assessment System Training

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has recently begun working with a technology based company called Northpointe in an effort to customize their existing youth assessment and case management tool. Through a collaborative effort, a web based assessment system and a training course are being developed to assist all youth programs within the Sheriff's

SHARE Tolerance Facilitator's Course

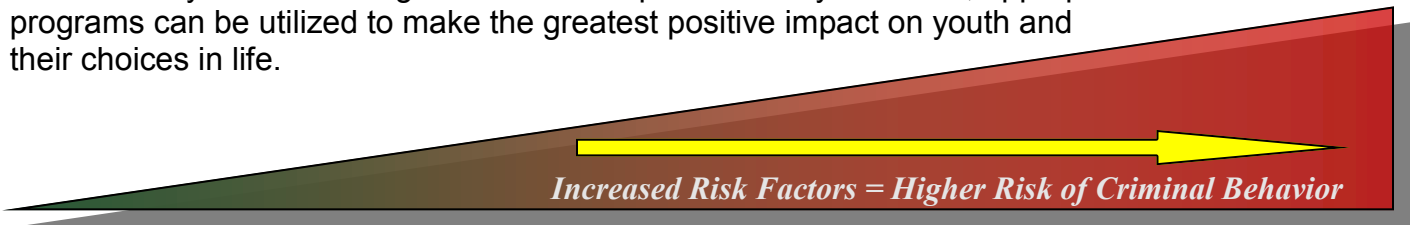
The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, The Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance and other public and private organizations, have come together to develop the Stop Hate And Respect Everyone (SHARE) program and facilitator training course. This interactive video and training course is designed to help facilitators reach out to our youth and teach them how to take a stand against hate and intolerance in the community.

Training

Understanding Terminology

At - Risk:

The term “at - risk” has become ambiguous in today’s research and evidence based delinquency intervention efforts. Risk has been broken down into risk levels (low, medium, high and very high). These risk levels are assessed on several factors that are known to be causes of criminal behavior. The more risk factors a youth has, the higher the probability that youth will offend or re-offend. By understanding the risk factors present in a youth’s life, appropriate services and programs can be utilized to make the greatest positive impact on youth and their choices in life.



Prevention - Juvenile delinquency prevention is an effort to educate youth on positive life choices before delinquent behavior begins. This effort is usually directed towards, but not limited to, elementary and middle school aged children with low to medium risk levels. Prevention efforts often provide “choice” options to youth, create safe environments for them during their after school hours, and expose youth to positive role models and mentors.

Intervention - Juvenile delinquency intervention is the process of re-directing early stage behaviors that are correlated with anti-social or criminal behavior. This effort is usually directed towards middle to high school aged youth with medium to high risk levels. Intervention efforts often include collaborations with schools, probation, juvenile courts, parents, and community based organizations. Intervention efforts should address the primary risk factors correlated with criminal behavior; parental structure and relationship, academic achievement, free or leisure time, anti-social attitudes and anti-social peers.

Suppression - Juvenile delinquency suppression is the act of utilizing all laws (State, County, and local municipal codes) to hold youth accountable for criminal acts and behaviors. This effort is directed towards any youth that violate the law.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good people to do nothing.”

Edmond Burke

Terminology

Explorer - Sheriff's Explorer Program

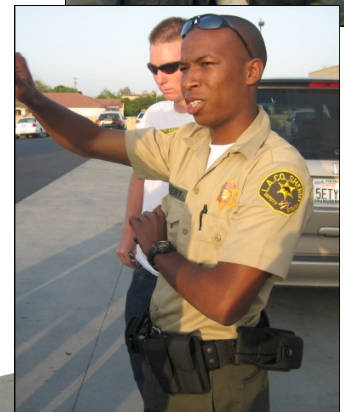
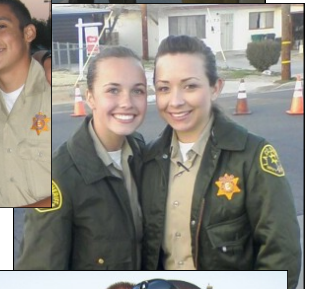
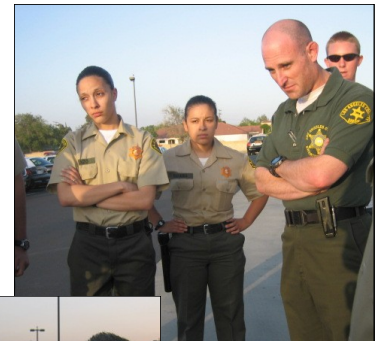


The Sheriff's **Explorer** Program is a youth oriented program that is affiliated with the special interest phase of the Learning for Life Program.

The primary purpose of the program is to provide, through actual experience, a means by which young men and women may determine if they would like to pursue a career in law enforcement.

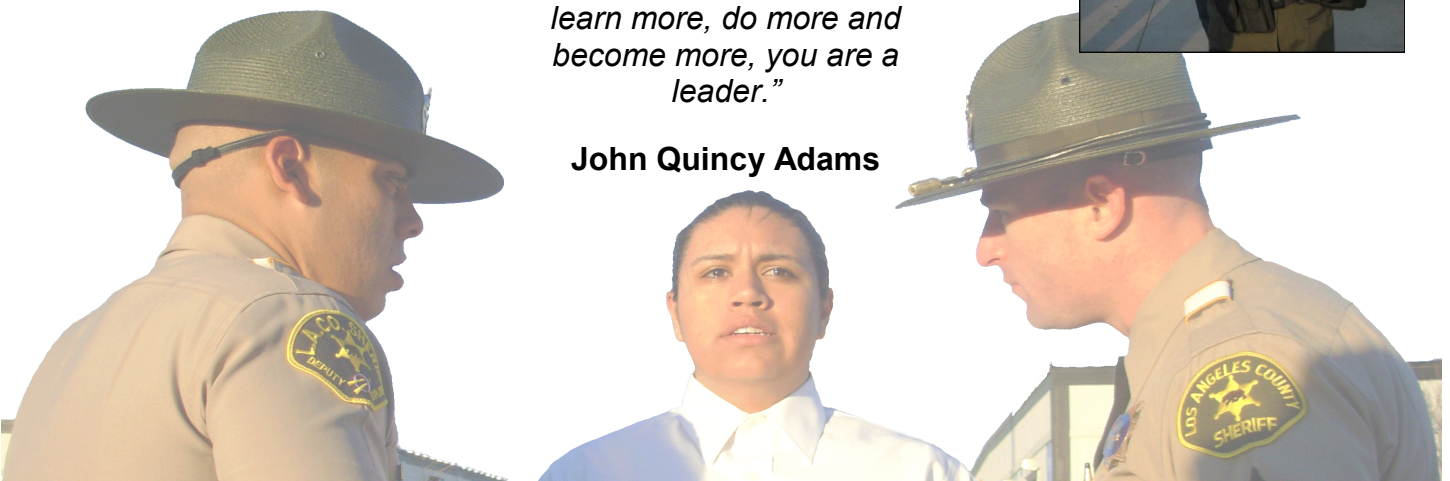
After acceptance into the program, new Explorers attend one of the Sheriff's Explorer Academies. The Explorer Academy consists of approximately 184 hours of instruction during 18 weeks of training on Saturdays. Subjects such as community relations, criminal law, firearms safety, police procedures and weaponless defense are taught. Satisfactory completion of the Academy earns youth ten high school credits.

Although directed toward an introduction to law enforcement, Explorers learn many other valuable life skills such as communication, leadership, teamwork, and the importance of helping the community they live in.



"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

John Quincy Adams



Prevention

YAL - Youth Activity League

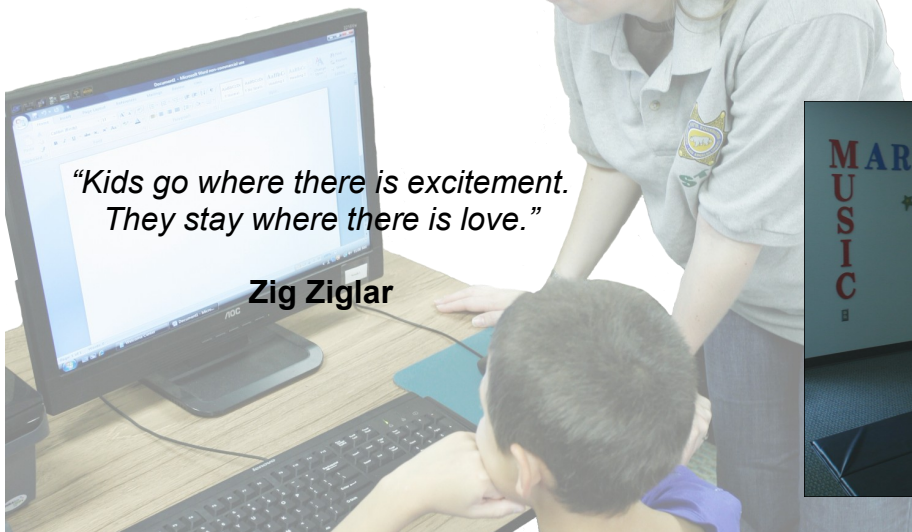
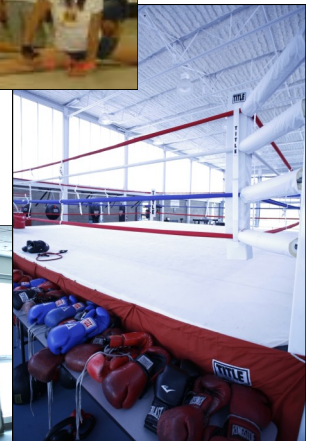
Of the 23 Sheriff's Stations throughout Los Angeles County, sixteen offer organized **Youth Activity League (YAL)** activities for boys and girls as a viable alternative to drug involvement and gang membership. More than 20,000 children and teenagers participate in **YAL** activities each year with financial support provided by the **Sheriff's Youth Foundation**.



Sheriff's Youth Foundation

YAL facilities provide a safe, supportive haven for counseling, educational tutoring and after-school recreational activities for youth. In addition, they also function as a neighborhood source of information on other types of vital community services. The schedule of activities for each station is dependent upon the preferences of the involved communities.

The Foundation also supports four Youth Activity Centers as part of the **YAL** network that offer computer labs, tutoring, counseling, and summer youth employment training programs. Sheriff station captains have responsibility for the Leagues and Centers in their communities. The scheduling of specific activities is determined by the interests and needs of youth in that area.



*"Kids go where there is excitement.
They stay where there is love."*

Zig Ziglar

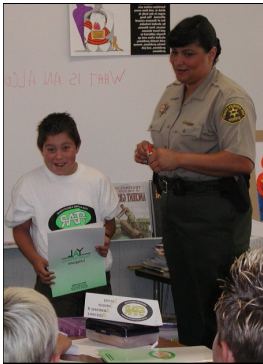
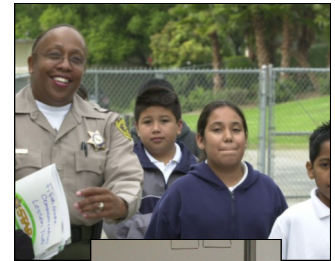
Prevention

STAR -

Success Through Awareness and Resistance



Drug, gang and violence prevention education classes are taught throughout Los Angeles County schools by specially trained Sheriff's Deputies assigned to the Success Through Awareness & Resistance (STAR) unit. The STAR program is at work in over 18 contract cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, involving 34 school districts, 202 schools, and reaching more than 40,000 youth annually.



The drug prevention classes have been operating in Los Angeles County schools since 1985 and are primarily geared toward children in the fourth through the sixth grade. However, the classes are also offered to other age groups according to requests from the school districts.

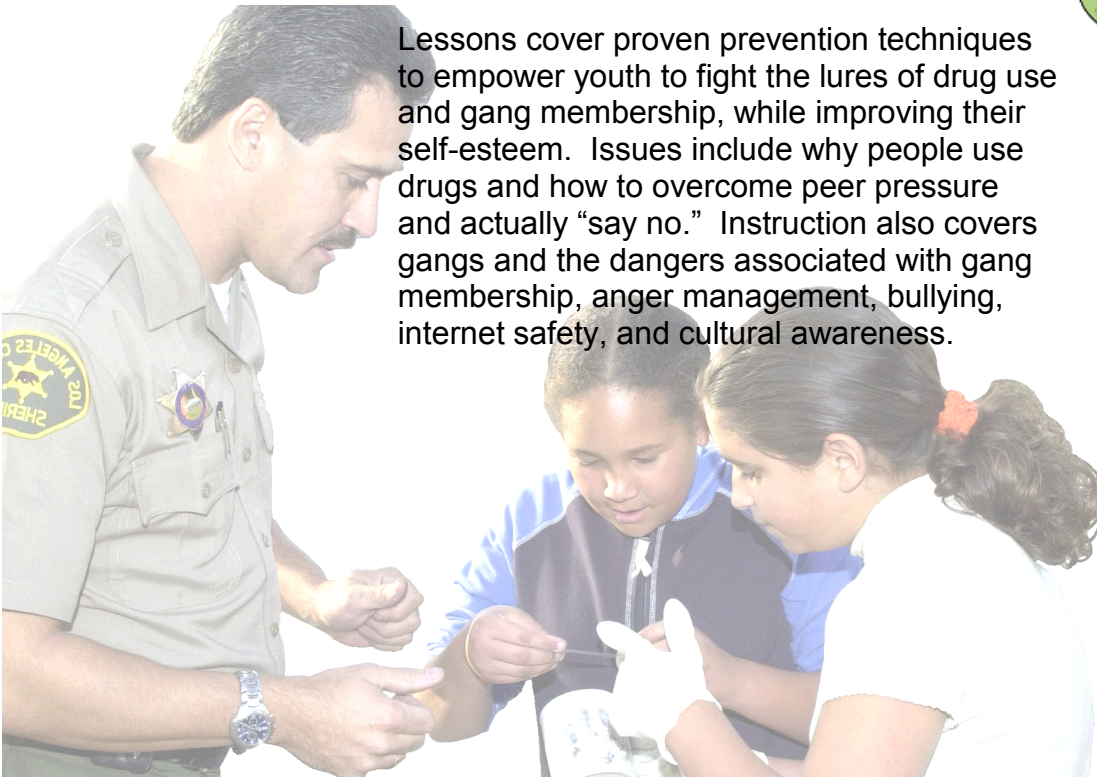


Lessons cover proven prevention techniques to empower youth to fight the lures of drug use and gang membership, while improving their self-esteem. Issues include why people use drugs and how to overcome peer pressure and actually "say no." Instruction also covers gangs and the dangers associated with gang membership, anger management, bullying, internet safety, and cultural awareness.



"Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children."

Walt Disney



Prevention

BEAR - Bicycle Education And Registration

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has developed an innovative new program called "BEAR," Bicycle Education And Registration. The goal of the program is to educate both children and adults on bicycle laws, safety and security.

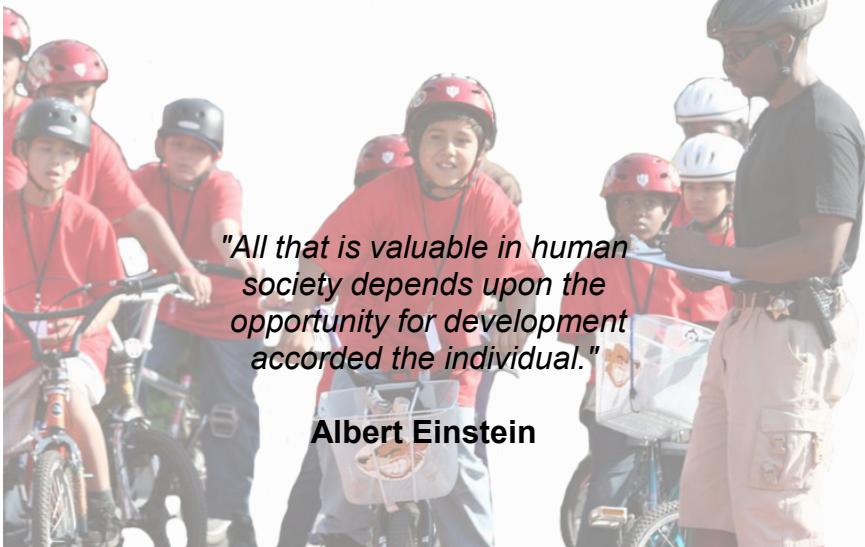
The BEAR program offers an adult and teen education program stressing the importance of bicycle safety and security. They also offer a "BEAR-Cub" class held at Sheriff's Youth Activity League Centers across the County. The program recycles confiscated bicycles and teaches children basic bicycle repair and restoration, along with an in depth safety education course. The program is highlighted with the child earning ownership of a free bicycle, new parts, and a helmet.

The program will also assist in bicycle theft recovery efforts, as a new "in house" registration program has been developed. The registration program is called "The BEAR Bike Locker" and is a free service offered to citizens who wish to protect their personal property.



Bicycle Education and Registration

<http://www.wehosherriff.com/bear.htm>



"All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual."

Albert Einstein

Prevention

Nuevas Fronteras - New Frontiers



The **Nuevas Fronteras** program was awarded a five-year grant as part of a state funded, School-Community Violence Prevention program. The program's purpose is to help sixth grade boys in the Lennox School District develop resiliency skills and protective factors to assist them in avoiding gang involvement.



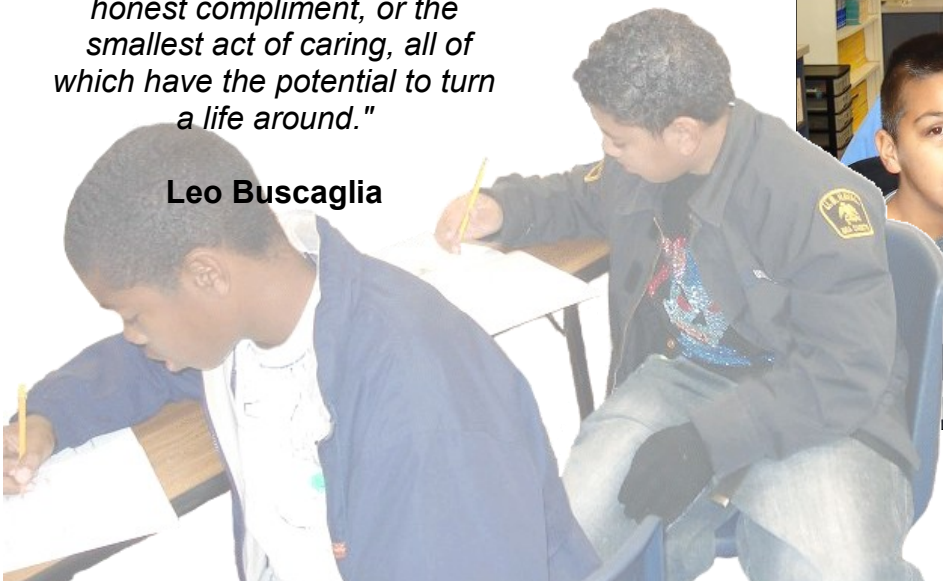
This includes facilitating awareness of the negative aspects of gang/drug involvement, finding positive alternative activities, and teaching active listening skills.



Students also learn how to identify and address barriers to school success, with an emphasis placed on developing good study habits and identifying academic goals.

"Too often we under estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Leo Buscaglia



Prevention

SHARE - Stop Hate and Respect Everyone

“Hate crime is an assault on the very tenets of American Democracy and the Constitution that this country cherishes. We cannot stand by idly while perpetrators of hate think for one minute they will find an easy target on which to prey.”

Leroy D. Baca

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Museum of Tolerance and other public and private organizations, is proud to present the **Stop Hate And Respect Everyone (SHARE)** program.



The goals of the **SHARE** program rely on a multi-faceted approach to eliminating crimes of hate.

The program incorporates innovative methods to facilitate communication and understanding. A powerful audio/visual experience has been designed to illuminate audiences and prompt informed discussion.

Influential demonstrations include:

- *Realizing that perceptions are not always clear.
- *Getting a new perspective on others views.
- *Understanding the contributions of others.
- *Discovering the history of hate.

This program provides resources designed to educate, inform and empower those we serve, and it furnishes essential tools needed to combat hatred and intolerance wherever it occurs.



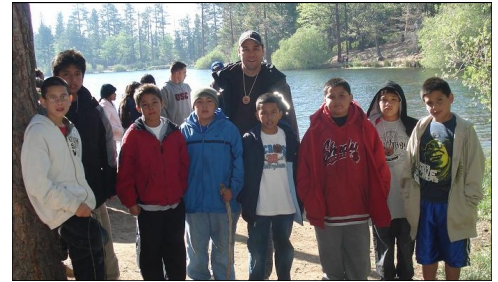
Website - www.sharetolerance.com

Prevention

GREAT - Gang Resistance Education And Training



The **GREAT** program is a school-based, law enforcement instructed class, with prevention as its primary objective. The program is intended to teach children life skills to immunize them against delinquency, youth violence and gang membership.



GREAT has developed partnerships with nationally recognized organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the National Association of Police Activities Leagues. These partnerships encourage positive relationships among the community, parents, schools and law enforcement officers.

“As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.”

Nelson Mandela

GREAT lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid using violence and delinquent behavior to solve problems. The G.R.E.A.T. program offers a continuum of components for students and their families.

Choose to Be **GREAT**



Prevention

GDT - Gang Diversion Team

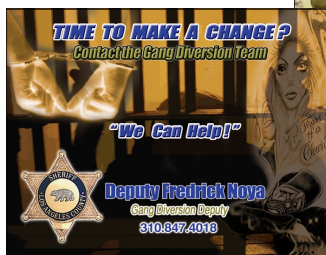
The **Gang Diversion Team (GDT)** is designed to directly impact the continuing cycle of violence and gang activity in a community. Carson Sheriff's Station leads a multi-disciplinary team that identifies gang members, at-risk youth and families in need of assistance.

GDT receives referrals from school officials, the Probation Department, the Department of Children and Family Services, mental health agencies, parents and deputies who come in contact with youths in need.

Outcomes of the program are tracked using a simple access database. The database contains all of the clients personal information, a photograph and all notes entered during the program, including their progress and disposition. The program is evaluated by a team of researchers from Cal State Dominguez Hills.



"The greatest discovery of any generation, is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude."

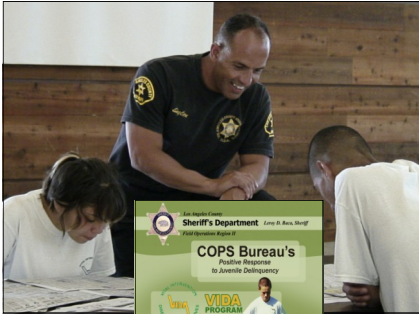


William James

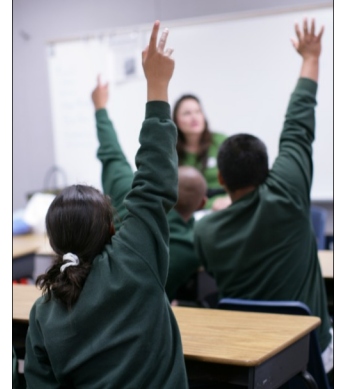


Intervention

VIDA - Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives



The **Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives (VIDA)** program is a 16-week, community assisted re-directional program facilitated by sheriff's deputies. The program focuses on addressing research based issues related to juvenile delinquency.



The **VIDA** program serves both male and female juveniles between the ages of 11 and 17 ½.

Each participant is assessed for risk factors and service needs. Once an assessment has been completed, a case plan is developed that will assist the youth in making better life choices and move toward a productive life plan.

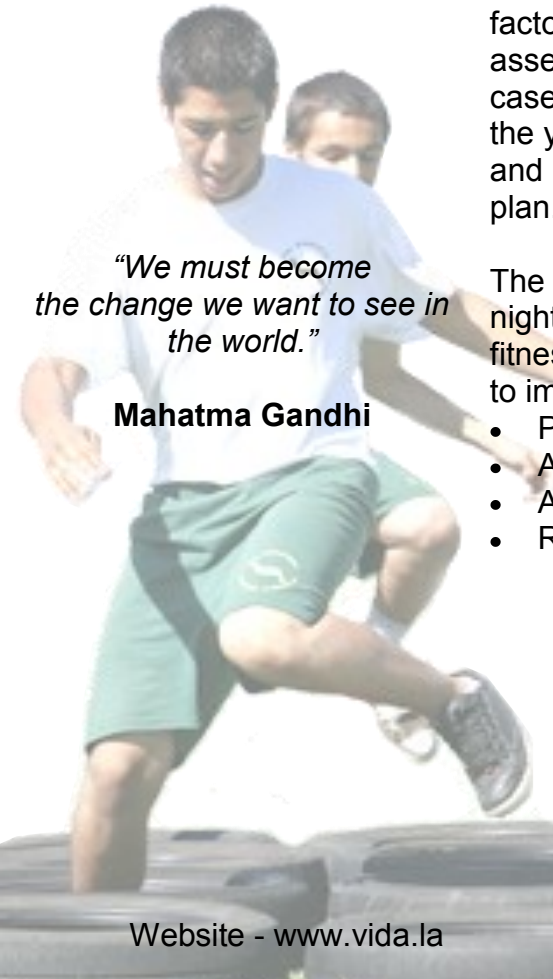


"We must become the change we want to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi

The **VIDA** program includes an intake night, reality orientation, and physical fitness components that are designed to impact the following risk factors:

- Parental relationship
- Academic achievement
- Anti-social attitudes and peers
- Recreational / free time alternatives



Website - www.vida.la



Intervention

PRIDE -

Personal Responsibility In Development and Ethics

“You learn more quickly under the guidance of experienced teachers. You waste a lot of time going down blind alleys if you have no one to lead you.”

W. Somerset Maugham



The **PRIDE** program is a faith-based youth intervention program facilitated by law enforcement officers and members of the Department’s Clergy Council. The program works with youth between the ages of 12-16 who have been assessed as being low to medium risk teens on the fringe of criminal behavior.



The twelve-week program conducts weekly workshops that focus on managing negative peer pressure, the positive results from a drug-free lifestyle, and the negative results of gang involvement. The program also conducts field trips that provide youth with the opportunity to experience the realities covered during the workshops.



The **PRIDE** program also has a parental counseling component that teaches parents how to address the unique challenges facing today’s youth.



Intervention

SYLP - Sheriff's Youth Leadership Program

The **Sheriff's Youth Leadership Program** is a ten-week program designed to educate and empower youth into achieving their full potential. The program is comprised of students ages 13-17, who meet on a weekly basis.

The meetings focus on developing fundamental leadership qualities such as character, responsibility, integrity, courage, sacrifice, and inspiration for creating positive change in the lives of the students. Under the guidance and supervision of Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriffs and community volunteers, students discuss a wide range of topics and learn leadership skills they are encouraged to apply in their daily lives.

Other important components of the **Sheriff's Youth Leadership Program** are special presentations by guest speakers, community field trips, and the SHARE Tolerance Program. Students culminate the ten week program by "giving back to the community" through participation in a community project of their choice.



"Every child has in him an aching void for excitement and if we don't fill it with something which is exciting, interesting and good for him, he will fill it with something which is exciting and interesting and which isn't good for him."

Theodore Roosevelt



Intervention

SRO - School Resource Officer



School Resource Officers (SRO) provide a uniformed law enforcement presence on elementary, middle and high school campuses. Their primary role is to respond to and reduce delinquent and criminal activity on the school grounds, providing a safe and healthy learning environment for students and educators.

They work closely with the school administrators in identifying any safety concerns on campus, as well as assisting in the development of a school safety plan.

SRO's also take on the role of a mentor with many of the students they come in contact with. Their daily presence on the school campuses help them develop a rapport with the students and teachers.



The exposure youth have with **SRO's** during their school age years has proven to create a positive relationship between law enforcement and youth. This program has become an integral part in building safer schools and communities.



"The capacity to learn is a gift, the ability to learn is a skill, the willingness to learn is a choice."

Unknown



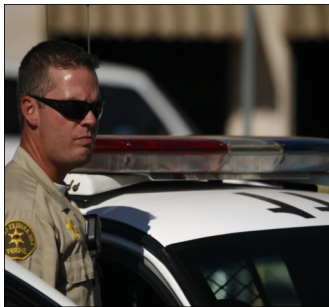
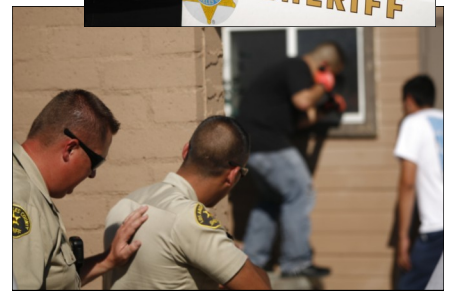
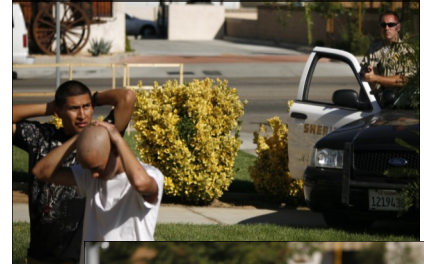
Suppression

Juvenile Truancy and Burglary Teams

The **Burglary Suppression Team** was first deployed in July of 2008 due to an increase in residential burglaries. After a comprehensive analysis, it was determined a majority of these burglaries were occurring during weekdays, between 6 AM and 6 PM. A large number of these crimes were being committed by juveniles during school hours.

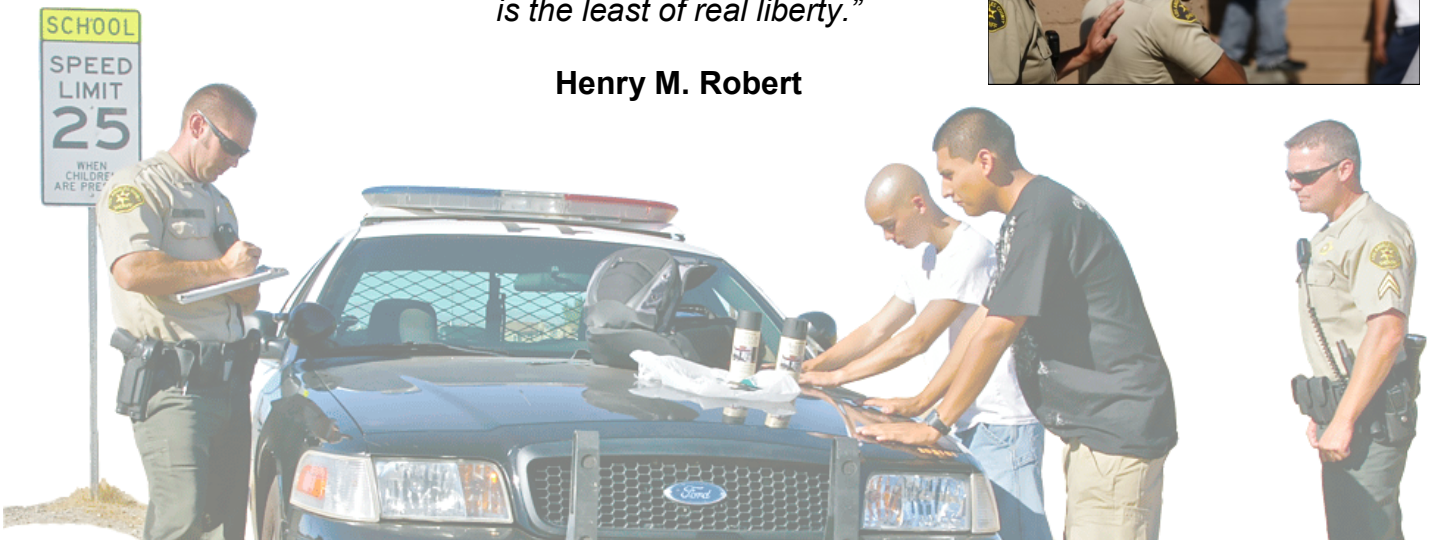
The Lancaster Sheriff's Station team, comprised of two detectives, six deputies and a sergeant, are dedicated strictly to burglary suppression efforts. They accomplish this by conducting truancy sweeps, closely monitoring local pawn shops, and educating the community on burglary prevention techniques.

From June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011, the team made more than 400 arrests, served 80 search warrants and recovered nearly \$500,000 in stolen property. Since their deployment in 2008, residential burglaries in the Lancaster Station area have been reduced by more than 31 percent.



"Where there is no law, but every man does what is right in his own eyes, there is the least of real liberty."

Henry M. Robert



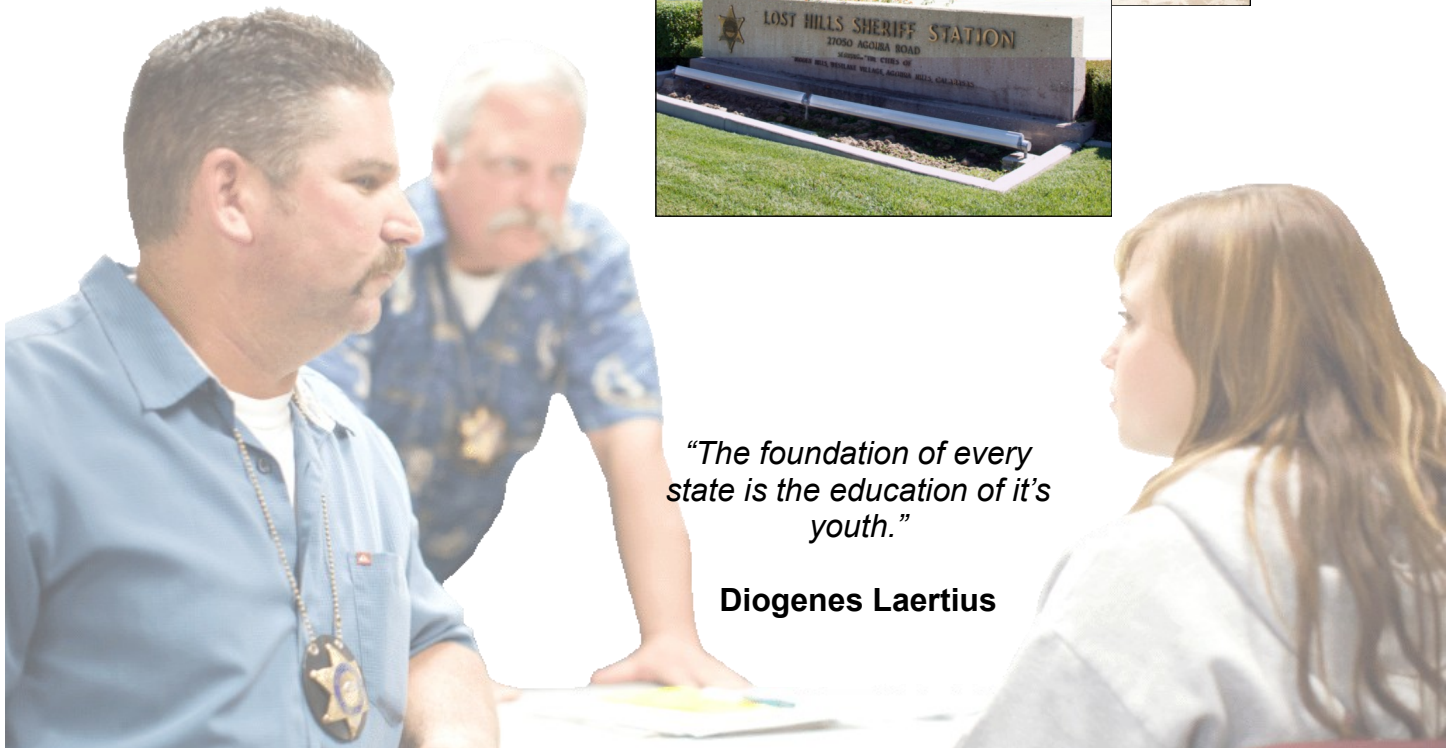
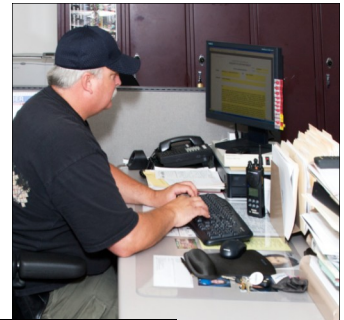
Suppression

J Team - Juvenile Team

The goal of the **Juvenile Team (J-Team)** is to improve the quality of life for the juveniles in the community and to prevent delinquent behavior. The **J-Team** takes a proactive and preventive approach to juvenile law enforcement issues. They incorporate a collaborative effort with the community and focus on three major areas:

- 1) Academic Achievement
- 2) Crisis Intervention
- 3) Community and Criminal Issues

The **J-Team** attempts to identify youth in need of some type of assistance or diversion. Youth are referred to the unit by personal observations of deputies, parents, teachers, clergy, neighbors, or any other persons involved with the youth. Deputies meet confidentially with the involved parties to resolve conflicts and address delinquent behavior.



"The foundation of every state is the education of it's youth."

Diogenes Laertius

Suppression

Department Resources

For further information regarding any of the programs outlined in this book, refer to the following resources, or contact the Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau at (323) 267-4800 or at shb@lasd.org.

Altadena Station	(626) 798-1131	altadena@lasd.org
Avalon Station	(310) 510-0174	avalon@lasd.org
Carson Station	(310) 830-1123	carson@lasd.org
Century Station	(323) 568-4750	century@lasd.org
Cerritos Station	(562) 860-0044	cerritos@lasd.org
Compton Station	(310) 605-6561	compton@lasd.org
Crescenta Valley Station	(818) 248-3464	crescentavalley@lasd.org
East Los Angeles Station	(323) 981-5001	eastla@lasd.org
Industry Station	(626) 330-3322	industry@lasd.org
Lakewood Station	(323) 568-4750	lakewood@lasd.org
Lancaster Station	(661) 948-8466	lancaster@lasd.org
Lomita Station	(310) 539-1661	lomita@lasd.org
Malibu/Lost Hills Station	(818) 878-1808	malibulosthills@lasd.org
Marina del Rey Station	(310) 482-6090	marinadelrey@lasd.org
Norwalk Regional Station	(562) 863-8711	norwalk@lasd.org
Palmdale Station	(661) 272-2400	palmdale@lasd.org
Pico Rivera Station	(562) 949-2421	picorivera@lasd.org
San Dimas Station	(909) 450-2700	sandimas@lasd.org
Santa Clarita Station	(661) 255-1121	santaclarita@lasd.org
South Los Angeles Station	(323) 820-6700	lennox@lasd.org
Temple Station	(626) 285-7171	temple@lasd.org
Walnut/Diamond Bar Station	(909) 595-2264	walnutdiamondbar@lasd.org
West Hollywood Station	(310) 855-8850	westhollywood@lasd.org
Community/Law Enforcement Partnership Program (CLEPP)	(323) 526-5015	clepp@lasd.org
Community Oriented Policing Bureau (COPS)	(323) 981-5300	cops@lasd.org
Sheriff's Youth Foundation	(323) 526-5120	youthfoundation@lasd.org
Success Through Awareness And Resistance (STAR)	(562) 946-7263	star@lasd.org
Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives Program (VIDA)	(310) 487-2864	vida@lasd.org

Contacts

CORE VALUES

*As a leader in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department,
I commit myself to honorably perform my duties with
respect for the dignity of all people,
integrity to do right and fight wrongs,
wisdom to apply common sense and fairness in all I do,
and courage to stand against racism, sexism,
anti-Semitism, homophobia and bigotry in all its forms.*

OUR MISSION

*Lead the fight to prevent crime and injustice.
Enforce the law fairly and defend the rights of all.
Partner with the people we serve to secure and promote
safety in our communities.*

OUR CREED

*My goals are simple.
I will always be painfully honest,
work as hard as I can, learn as much as I can
and hopefully make a difference in people's lives.*

Deputy David W. March



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