



Alpha Phi Sigma

The Criminal Justice Honor Society

Est. 1942

Here are some ideas for the chapters to consider:

Early Intervention: There are programs that focus on intervention with children and adolescents who are in the early stages of delinquency involvement (early intervention). These are usually school or community based-programs, diversion and alternative to the Juvenile Justice System programs.

- Mentoring programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters.
- Teen Court.
- Multisystemic Therapy and Family Function Therapy.
- Programs that work with specific youth populations (runaways, truants, youth in foster care...).
- School based programs that use alternatives to suspension and expulsions.

Prevention of Recidivism & Promotion of Rehabilitation: There are also programs that focus on the prevention of recidivism and the promotion of rehabilitation (intervention and treatment). These are usually intensive community-based programs or coming from Juvenile Court or Probation.

- Gang intervention.
- Restorative Justice.
- Residential Community Treatment (forestry and boot camps, ranches...).
- Employment and work readiness programs.
- Programs that address youth with substance abuse problems.

Youth Mentorship Program: Establish a mentorship program where older students or community members can mentor at-risk juveniles. Mentors can provide guidance, support, and positive role modeling to help juveniles navigate challenges and make better choices.

Community Workshops on Conflict Resolution: Organize workshops or seminars in local schools or community centers focused on conflict resolution skills. Teach juveniles effective communication, problem-solving, and conflict management techniques to reduce violence and improve relationships.

Restorative Justice Circles: Implement restorative justice circles in schools or community settings. These circles bring together affected parties, including victims, offenders, and community members, to discuss the impact of offenses, promote accountability, and find solutions that benefit all involved.

Life Skills Training Programs: Develop and deliver workshops or courses that teach essential life skills to at-risk juveniles. Topics can include budgeting, job readiness, time management, decision-making, and goal-setting, empowering them to make positive choices and succeed in life.

Art Therapy Workshops: Offer art therapy workshops to juveniles as a means of expression and healing. Art can serve as a powerful outlet for emotions, helping individuals explore their feelings, build self-esteem, and cope with stress or trauma.

Community Clean-up Initiatives: Organize community clean-up events where students and juveniles work together to improve local neighborhoods. This not only fosters a sense of responsibility and pride but also promotes positive interactions between youth and the community.

Peer Education Campaigns: Empower students to lead peer education campaigns on topics relevant to juvenile intervention, such as substance abuse prevention, anti-bullying strategies, or the consequences of delinquent behavior. Peers often have a significant influence on each other and can effectively convey important messages.

College Campus Tours and Financial Aid Workshops: Organize college campus tours for at-risk juveniles to expose them to higher education opportunities and inspire them to pursue academic goals. Visiting campuses can demystify the college experience, spark excitement about learning, and provide tangible goals for the future. - Alongside campus tours, host workshops on financial aid options, scholarships, and the college application process. Many at-risk juveniles may face barriers to accessing higher education due to financial constraints. Providing information and resources on funding options can empower them to pursue their educational aspirations despite financial challenges.

Literacy and Education Initiatives: Create tutoring programs or literacy initiatives to support juveniles who may be struggling academically. Improving educational outcomes can positively impact future opportunities and reduce the likelihood of involvement in delinquent behavior.

Civic Engagement Projects: Encourage students to get involved in civic engagement projects such as voter registration drives, community gardening, or volunteering at local shelters or food banks. Engaging in meaningful community service fosters a sense of belonging and responsibility.

Career Exploration and Job Training: Offer workshops that expose juveniles to various career paths and provide job training opportunities. Building vocational skills and exploring potential careers can inspire hope for the future and deter involvement in criminal activities.

Gang Desistance Programs: Chapters could speak with individuals that run gang desistance programs just as officers that run a G.R.E.A.T. or have in the past. Here's one you can watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wal5QFvTSWw>.

Police & Juveniles Interaction: A great way to prevent negative involvement with juveniles and police officers is to increase contact between the two groups in a positive setting. This is common in communities across the country.

- Work with local police to create a one-day citizens academy. This program placed middle school aged children in similar situations that police officers experience on the job while they were equipped with paintball handguns and police safety equipment. This helps children understand why law enforcement officials sometimes make the decisions that they do and why sometimes it can be the wrong decision.
- Additionally, there are other programs that involve adolescents and police in more relaxed situations as well, e.g. pizza with police, donuts with cops, games, and just Q&As.

Juvenile Court Proceedings: Advisors who work with the Juvenile Court System could create with their chapter a simulation of proceedings to illustrate to juveniles in the community (or school) what happens when youth find themselves in that situation. This would be a great way to tie in restorative justice practices that are utilized in the JJS. An important part of juvenile deterrence involves discouragement from joining gangs and ending involvement with gang members. This can be very difficult for juveniles because they may lack resources or social connections.

Here are some references you may find useful:

- Big Brother/Big Sister programs, Great Life Mentoring, Cross-Age Peer Mentoring Program.
- Promising programs at this website: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/model-programs-guide/all-mpg-programs>