Symbols of hate

White supremacists have a number of symbols that they use and commonly tattoo on their bodies. Each tattoo, or "patch," has to be earned and cannot arbitrarily be applied. Many of the symbols can be traced to Nazi Germany or the Norse culture. Nazi Germany used the Aryan/Norse heritage and Runic symbols in its own displays, which were later adopted by white supremacists.



The Norse Rune was originally used by the Vikings to show their faith in the pagan religion of Odinism. White supremacists have adopted it to represent pride in their Aryan heritage.

The Celtic Cross, or "Odin's Cross," is widely used by the Ku Klux Klan and skinhead groups to show white pride. It is also still used today by non-racists as a Christian symbol and by the Celts of ancient Ireland and Scotland.





SS was adopted from Nazi Germany; the two lightning bolts represented police forces who commonly worked for the Gestapo or in concentration camps. The symbol is commonly used today by skinheads, Nazis and those with anti-Semitic beliefs. White supremacists must commit an act of violence before being allowed to tattoo this symbol on their body.

The Iron Cross was a military decoration that originated during the Napoleonic Wars. It was later adopted by Adolf Hitler with a swastika in the middle. Today it is used by neo-Nazi groups to show their belief in socialism.





The swastika is the most recognizable symbol from Nazi Germany. It is used by white supremacists today to show loyalty and to instill fear in others.

The Iron Eagle, former symbol of Hitler's Third Reich, is commonly used by neo-Nazi groups today to represent power and strength to the movement. The Iron Eagle is another patch typically earned by committing an act of violence.



The Death Rune, originally a symbol of Norse mythology, is given to someone who has committed an act of violence, usually the murder of another person.



The spider web is often displayed on a white supremacist's elbow. The tattoo is normally applied while incarcerated and signifies that a person has done time in prison. In some groups outside Utah it is a tattoo that is "earned" by killing a minority.



The "death head" is often displayed as a tattoo that represents "My honor is true." It is also used by some groups as a symbol that the person has committed a homicide, usually of a Jew or minority.

White supremacist numbers



White supremacists sometimes use numbers as a code to represent words or phrases. Police have seen members display these numbers as a sign of allegiance on their vehicles, on clothing and even tattooed on their bodies. Here are some of the most prominent numbers

used by white supremacists and what those numbers represent.

- 14: This stands for the "14 words" or the battle-cry philosophy that all white supremacists live by. The 14-word phrase is, "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children."
- **88:** The eighth letter of the alphabet is H. The number 88 also means "HH," which is short for "Heil Hitler." In August, Target Corp. recalled baseball caps and shorts from all of its stores that displayed the number 88.
- **14-88:** The previously mentioned 14 and 88 are often written together as a sign of support by white supremacists for their ideology.
 - 311: The letter K is the 11th letter of the alphabet. The number 311 to a white supremacist means three letter Ks, or KKK (Ku Klux Klan). In gangs that are not affiliated with a white supremacist group, 311 also stands for CK, or the third and 11th letters in the alphabet. "CK" is short for "Crip Killer."
 - 5: The number 5, or the "5 words," is usually something white supremacists say, particularly to law enforcement, rather than tattoo on themselves. The "5 words" are, "I have nothing to say." When white supremacists say they are taking the 5 words, they are invoking their code of silence
- 100%: Used by white supremacists to tell others their roots are 100 percent Aryan or white.
 - 666: In biblical terms "666" represented the mark of Satan. But Utah police say 666 by white supremacists is not necessarily satanic. The person displaying the symbol is trying to say he is the "ultimate beast."
- 4/19: This symbol is sometimes used by anti-government white supremacists. It represents the anniversary of two significant events: the Branch Davidian siege in Waco, Texas, in 1993 and the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing in 1995.
 - **4/20:** Another anniversary date for racists. The date represents Hitler's birthday as well as the tragedy at Columbine High School. Drug users also use it as slang for smoking marijuana.

SOURCE: Anti-Defamation League