

VANDALISM



HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?

- If someone wrote obscene words on the walls of your home?
- If someone kicked and broke your property and then said it was just a joke?

- In private property damage it costs property owners time and money to repair the damage caused by vandalism. The monetary costs are only a small part of the price—people feel less secure after their property is damaged and feelings of anger toward the community are also caused from property damage.

ASK YOURSELF

- How often do you pass property that has been vandalized with graffiti, broken windows or missing street or traffic signs?
- How many times in one day do you see graffiti or other damage at your school?

WHO VANDALIZES AND WHY?

- some vandals work in groups. You may even know some of the teens doing the damage—there is no one “type” of teen who vandalizes. He or she might be the smartest kid in school or the kid who’s always in trouble. Most vandals are young people — from kids in grade school to teens to young adults. They vandalize out of:

- boredom
- anger
- revenge
- defiance

Don't let graffiti happen to your neighborhood—take a stand against graffiti and make sure it is removed as soon as it appears. Promote (801) 972-7885, the Salt Lake City graffiti hotline, for the quick removal of graffiti.

It takes persistence but, by working with law enforcement and other residents, you can keep your neighborhood clean and the effects of vandalism to a minimum.

PROJECT IDEAS:

- Adopt an area to maintain and oversee, keeping it free from damage.
- raise money to repair damaged property.
- Conduct an anti-vandalism poster contest.
- Write articles about vandalism and its cost to the community for school and local newspapers, newsletters and blogs.

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

- It all starts with you. don't destroy or deface someone else's or public property. Think: how you would feel if it was your property? report any acts of vandalism to school authorities or police. Volunteer to help clean up and repair vandalism, which helps to deter more damage.

REMEMBER . . .

- destroying someone else's property isn't funny. It's vandalism and it is a crime.
- When someone damages public property they are taking money away from property and programs each of us want to have and share.
- fixing broken windows costs more than \$300. fixing a basketball standard costs more than \$500. Cleaning up graffiti by having to repaint walls can cost hundreds of dollars. All of this is money that could have been used to buy new equipment, institute new programs or even hire more employees.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK:

- Get your class, student council, law-related education or government classes, 4-H group or club to start an anti-vandalism campaign.
 1. Collect facts about vandalism and how much it costs your school and community from school officials, local police and city government.
 2. educate adults, including teachers, parents and local officials, about the problem. spread the word: vandalism costs everyone!
 3. Through your groups, clubs and friends, plan projects that will have immediate effects. use traditional and social media to publicize your efforts to get as many people involved as possible.