

Deseret News



Powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Marketplace powered by KSL.com

- News
 - Sports
 - Moneywise
 - Opinion
 - Faith
 - Family
 - Obituaries
 - Classifieds
 - Cars
 - Jobs
 - Deals
- Utah World & Nation Politics Business Education More News

Advertise with us

Report this ad

Graffiti vandals hit historic Ensign Peak

By Andrew Adams, Deseret News
 Published: Monday, June 24 2013 6:24 p.m. MDT
 Updated: June 24, 2013

Print | Font [+][-] | 4 Comments »



View 6 photos »

Vandals have vandalized the monuments at Ensign Peak Monday, June 24, 2013.

Scott G Winterton, Deseret News

Summary

Vandals left the monument at the top of Ensign Peak covered in paint, leaving many hikers outraged because of the historical and cultural significance of the area.

“I think that the best thing for people to keep in mind, whether it be littering or graffiti, is that these are our spaces to care for collectively.”

Open space program manager Leslie Chan

SALT LAKE CITY — Vandals left the monument at the top of Ensign Peak covered in paint, leaving many hikers outraged because of the historical and cultural significance of the area.

“It’s really disrespectful,” said Shelley Vermason, who saw the graffiti Friday during a hike. “We’ve got a lot of landmarks and historical sites up here. To just have them tagged like that, it’s disappointing.”

Salt Lake City work crews had removed most of the graffiti from the latest vandalism spree by Monday morning after the first complaint came to the city Sunday.

“I think that what we’ve found to be a really good way to stay on top of it is if we can respond quickly, then the people who are doing this vandalism will understand that their efforts are going to be for naught and will be covered up sooner than later,” Open space program manager Leslie Chan said.

A unit of six workers responds on average to 17,000 graffiti cases a year in the city, according to Chan.

The city budgets \$450,000 annually to clean up after taggers, Art Raymond, spokesman for Salt Lake City

What You May Have Missed

- The 25 best cheap eats in Salt Lake
- Movie trailer released for film about Mormon missionaries kidnapped in Russia
- Supreme Court ruling 50 years ago set modern course for religion in public schools

Sign up for morning or afternoon updates
 Sample morning edition email



Airfare Sale: Fly from \$72
 Travelzoo Deal Experts found this airfare sale with flights starting at \$72.* Sale ends soon.
[Learn more »](#)

As seen on **TRAVELZOO**

Advertise with us | Report this ad

Most Popular

In Utah | Across Site

- LDS Church responds to Supreme Court...
- Supporters of traditional marriage regroup...
- Dick Harmon: BYU's Kyle Van Noy sticks up for...
- Utahns react with questions: What happens next?
- Abandoned LDS Church salvaged to help build...
- 1 killed, 1 critically injured in Utah County...
- Orem man dies after intervening in mother-son...
- The 25 best cheap eats in Salt Lake

Get The Deseret News Everywhere

- Subscribe
- Mobile
- Facebook
- Twitter
- RSS
- Email

Most Commented

In Utah | Across Site

LDS Church responds to Supreme Court... 130

Mayor Ralph Becker, said.

The attack on Ensign Peak carries weight with locals, who can't look past the history of the trail.

Two days after Mormon pioneers settled the area in 1847, Brigham Young and other leaders hiked to the peak to survey the mountains, valley and waterways.

The area has been viewed as sacred by many members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, because the first visit to the top [was considered a fulfillment of prophecy](#).

Hikers of all denominations have also held reverence for the area because of its natural beauty and breathtaking vistas.

"People spend a lot of money and time to make it beautiful, and [the vandalism] detracts from the beauty of it," said Rebecca Boren.

The area has seen its history of troubles.

In 1934, the original monument was destroyed by vandals. The historic marker disappeared for many years, but was later recovered by the city.

A new marker was set in place in 1989 and was dedicated by LDS Church President Gordon B. Hinckley, then first counselor in the First Presidency.

Chan said before the latest case, the area had been hit by vandals on June 12.

Even those who view some graffiti as an art form expressed concerns over the recent tagging.

"It is a way of expression," Cooper Rice said. "If it's gang-related, yeah, like that stuff's wack."

Chan said the most effective way to police vandalism is to report suspicious activity.

"I think that the best thing for people to keep in mind, whether it be littering or graffiti, is that these are our spaces to care for collectively," Chan said.

Salt Lake City has a hotline to report graffiti: 801-972-7885.

- [4 men sue Boy Scouts, LDS church in Idaho](#) 73
- [Supporters of traditional marriage...](#) 55
- [Utahns react with questions: What...](#) 49
- [Obama says time to act is now on...](#) 44
- [Study: Majority of U.S. charter schools...](#) 31
- [New Huntsman PAC suggests he's getting...](#) 23
- [Innovations announced in missionary...](#) 16



★ Popular Comments

[See all 4 comments »](#)

Chris B Salt Lake City, UT

Can you imagine if a Muslim statue was spray painted?

Liberals would be up in arms and there would likely be death threats from the offended religion.

News media would be covering the ensuring chaos.

Thankfully the [More..](#)

10:48 a.m. June 25, 2013 | ★ Top comment

Irony Guy Bountiful, Utah

@Red Corvette

For myself as a Utahn, this monument is highly significant, both historically and culturally.

I'm not surprised this wouldn't be true for a Californian, although graffiti on the Muir redwoods might be a

9:52 a.m. June 25, 2013 | ★ Top comment

Richard Larson Galt, CA

Oh my stars!!!!
What a terrible,
terrible thing to do.....

8:01 p.m. June 24, 2013 | ★ Top comment

Comments

[Leave a comment »](#)

DeseretNews.com encourages a civil dialogue among its readers. We welcome your thoughtful comments.
— [About comments](#)

About the Author

Andrew Adams

[Andrew Adams](#)

Connect:  

[Advertise with us](#)

[Report this ad](#)

Recommended Stories



[Hobby Lobby ruling](#)

A federal appeals court ruled that Hobby Lobby stores won't have to start paying millions of dollars in fines



[Cougar announcements](#)

BYU is in with the 2015 Poinsettia Bowl, have scheduled a series with USC and have extended Bronco's contract



[What's in the stars?](#)



Armed with contract extension, BYU coach still has a checklist of things to accomplish.

Sponsored Results		
<p>Expert Overspray Removal We Remove All Types Of Overspray From All Vehicles Onsite www.overspray.com</p>	<p>Atlantic Power Cleaning Highly experienced in providing graffiti removal in New www.atlantcpowercleaning.com</p>	<p>Organic Graffiti Remover Fast & Tough On All Graffiti Low VOCs - Extremely Low Odor www.ndclean.com</p>

Advertise with us

Report this ad

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Moneywise](#) [Opinion](#) [Faith](#) [Family](#) [Obituaries](#)

 Sign up for morning or afternoon updates 

Home »

- [Blogs](#)
- [Topics](#)
- [Lists](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Watch It](#)

News »

- [Utah news](#)
- [World & Nation](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Salt Lake County](#)
- [Utah County](#)
- [Davis County](#)
- [Police/Courts](#)
- [Legislature](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Immigration](#)
- [News Wire](#)

Sports »

- [Utah Jazz](#)
- [Sports Picks](#)
- [BYU Cougars](#)
- [Utah Utes](#)
- [Utah State Aggies](#)
- [Real Salt Lake](#)
- [Salt Lake Bees](#)
- [High school sports](#)
- [Rock](#)
- [Harmon](#)
- [Watch It](#)
- [Scores and Stats](#)
- [On TV](#)
- [NFL](#)
- [MLB](#)
- [Weber State Wildcats](#)
- [Grizzlies](#)
- [Utah Valley Wolverines](#)
- [Southern Utah University](#)
- [Sports Wire](#)

Opinion »

- [Editorials](#)
- [Op-Eds](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Political Cartoons](#)

Faith »

- [Featured Faiths](#)
- [Mormon Times](#)
- [LDS Church News](#)
- [Mission Reunions](#)
- [Faith Wire](#)

Family »

- [Marriage & Parenting](#)
- [Family Media](#)
- [Movie Guide](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [TV Listings](#)
- [Family Life Wire](#)

Special Sections »

- [Education Week](#)
- [LDS General Conference](#)
- [Mormons in America](#)
- [Olympics](#)
- [Outdoor Retailer](#)
- [Rugby](#)
- [Sports Picks](#)
- [Sundance Film Festival](#)
- [Utah Blaze](#)
- [Utah Grizzlies](#)

[Print Subscription](#) [About us](#) [Contact us](#) [FAQ](#) [Feedback](#) [Jobs](#) [RSS](#) [E-Edition](#) [Privacy policy](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Legal notices](#) [Advertise with us](#)



CleanMyMac 2  **Legendary cleaner for your Mac.**
Download Now **Now twice as effective.**

Advertise with us

Report this ad