

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

DARTH VADER GROTESQUE



FINDING DARTH VADER

Darth Vader is difficult to see without the assistance of binoculars. Start at the top of the tower. There are two large pinnacles, or points, on the corners of the tower and a much smaller one in the center. Follow the center pinnacle down and find the first gablet, or tiny peaked roof. Darth Vader is the grotesque on the right side of this gablet. Use the diagram below as a visual aid.



WHAT DOES DARTH VADER HAVE TO DO WITH THE CATHEDRAL?

Darth Vader is one of the numerous carved grotesques on the Cathedral. Like gargoyles, grotesques carry rain water away from the building's walls. Gargoyles carry away excess water via pipes running through their mouths; grotesques deflect rainwater by bouncing it off the top of their heads, noses or other projecting parts, and away from the stone walls.

In the 1980s the Cathedral, with *National Geographic World* magazine, sponsored a competition for children to design decorative sculpture for the Cathedral. The third-place winner was Christopher Rader of Kearney, Nebraska, who submitted a drawing of this futuristic representation of evil. Darth Vader was placed on the northwest tower with the other winning designs: a raccoon, a girl with pigtails and braces, and a man with large teeth and an umbrella.

The fierce head was sculpted by Jay Hall Carpenter and carved by Patrick J. Plunkett.

To find Darth Vader, you have to leave the building through the ramp entrance, which is through the wooden doors near the statue of Abraham Lincoln. Go down the ramp, and step onto the grass to your right. Then, turn around and look up at the tower closest to you.

WANT TO LEARN ABOUT OTHER GARGOYLES AND GROTESQUES?

Gargoyle tours are offered on the dates below, rain or shine. Please check website for information.

\$10 adults, \$5 children, or \$30 for a family.

2012 SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 29, 2 pm	Thursday, June 28, 6:30 pm
Thursday, May 17, 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 12, 6:30 pm
Sunday, May 20, 2 pm	Sunday, July 15, 2 pm
Thursday, May 27, 2 pm	Thursday, July 19, 6:30 pm
Sunday, June 17, 2 pm	Sunday, July 22, 2 pm
Sunday, June 24, 2 pm	Thursday, August 16, 6:30 pm
	Sunday, August 19, 2 pm