Contest looks for true stories

The Sheraton Anchorage Hotel is looking for true stories of life in Alaska by children in grades four through twelve. In exchange, the winner will "experience Sheraton" with a luxury weekend for a family of four at the hotel during Anchorage's Fur Rendezvous Race Weekend.

The third annual Sheraton Anchorage Alaskan Experience Contest begins this week. Deadline for entries is January 26th. Contestants are asked to tell their true tales in 50 words or less or three minutes of audio cassette tape. Entries can be on any theme: adventure, outdoors, family or community life. Tom Shaver, general manager, said stories must be true. The story-telling contest is designed to encourage children to reflect upon their unique Alaska lifestyle, to sit down with family and friends and record recollections for their family's future enjoyment, he said.

Contestants must include a statement signed by their parents that it is all right to publish or broadcast the entry. Submit stories with name, address and parents' daytime phone number to Alaskan Experience Contest, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, 401 E Sixth Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501.

Judges will be Doris Riemann of the Book Cache stores, award-winning Alaska journalist Betzi Woodman, author Suzy Arnout, journalists Clinton Andrews, editorial page editor of the Anchorage Times, and Howard Weaver, managing editor of the Anchorage Daily News. A winner will be announced the second week in February.

The prize of a luxury weekend for a family of four at the Sheraton during Fur Rendezvous weekend includes deluxe room accommodations, dinner at Josephines restaurant, breakfast in the Calista Cafe. The winner will also receive a \$200 gift certificate from The Alaska Collection Catalogue and special guest privileges at the Sheraton's Fur Rendezvous Indoor Family Picnic.