

**This is how I first got the story from Emily Westover, an excellent “Colorado Kids” reporter from Centennial, Colorado. Thanks, Emily, for allowing us to publish your versions.**

**We asked her to write a story about Vail. This was the first draft she submitted. I highlighted what I thought would be valuable and interesting information. Then I asked Emily to rewrite it without the focus on the Teva games. I wanted an article just about Vail and not one particular initiative. It’s tough to have to rewrite, but it’s one of the most vital steps in publishing.**

**Carol Mader  
Colorado Kids Editor**

**Scroll down for her rewrites.**

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## **First draft**

### **A Trip to Vail**

**Have you ever wondered what Vail is like in the springtime? My family and I decided to pack up the car and go see.**

Vail wasn't as crowded as it is in the winter but it was still pretty busy because of the annual Teva games. The Teva games are races like running, canoeing, rollerblading, kayaking, dirt biking, and even dog races!

At the Teva races, there were many tents that gave away free stuff (one tent was even giving away free dog shirts which I got for my three dogs who were also with us). There were also places where you could try canoeing. Among all of that was a bus that has a rock-climbing wall for kids on the side of it. Not only does it have a cool wall, but it also runs on old vegetable oil from restaurants instead of gas!

Marketing Supervisor for this project, Matthew Copeland said, " We're traveling around in this vegetable-powered bus to promote our school" Their school is NOLS, which stands for National Outdoor Leadership School. Matthew and his crew have been to 37 states since October.

**The Teva games aren't the only fun part about Vail. There's rafting, fishing, mountain biking, canoeing, ice skating, golfing, mini-golfing, horseback riding, real rock climbing, hiking, tennis, swimming, and a lot more!**

The hotels are really cheap in the spring since it's not ski-season. The condo that we stayed in was The Antlers and cost \$150 per night. **We really liked this hotel because**

it allowed dogs and they just put in a 2 million dollar heated pool and two hot tubs with heated walkways!

So if you're looking for an exciting adventure, go to Vail, Colorado!!!

For more information on this place go to [www. Antlers.com](http://www.Antlers.com). Kid-friendly rating: 5 out of 5.

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**This was Emily's rewrite. I thought it was much better and loved the angle about the dogs. Her version was over 400 words and we need to keep these kinds of articles to about 350 words, so I had to chop. It's hard because I want to include it all. However, an article that is too long actually drives many readers away. That is the exact opposite of what we want to do, so time for me to chop, chop, chop. I again highlighted what I felt was the most pertinent information and had to say goodbye to all the other wonderful words. As an editor, I have to always keep in mind, "What will most kids be interested in? How can we best serve the kids?"**

## **Second draft**

### **Wag your tail in Vail**

Do you ever wonder what Vail is like when it's not ski season? My family and I decided to take a road trip and find out.

When we entered the winding town of Vail, we headed straight for our favorite, pet-friendly hotel: the Antlers.

At the Antlers there is a large variety of cozy condos. There is also a business center, a workout room, a conference place, and a brand new heated pool that includes two hot tubs and a heated walkway. This majestic pool is on a large balcony backing up to a flowing stream.

If you don't feel like swimming you can walk a couple of feet down from the pool to the crystal clear river and follow the charming trail of Gore Creek to the fascinating little town; Lion's Head village.

In this cute little shopping center there's a bunch of delicate little shops like a petite general store, hip sports shops, and fun little food joints. There is also an awesome gondola that takes you up a towering mountain in the summer and winter.

If you want to go to a larger market, then spring into the car and drive two minutes to Vail Village. In this jolly little town, you'll find two ice cream parlors, a pet friendly restaurant, a toy store, apparel outlets, and coffee shops (including the only Starbucks in town).

Shopping isn't the only summer activity in Vail.

You can go mountain biking, golf through lush scenery, take an enjoyable horse back ride through enchanted forests, take a thrilling ride in a hot air balloon over miles of Vail's glamorous mountains, go kayaking through sparkling rivers, and more!

“What I like best about Vail is that it’s not very crowded in the summer.” Said Tom Flanagan of Centennial, Colorado.

This great town is a far cry from what it started out 42 years ago, once called “No Name Mountain”. Now named after Charles Vail who was an engineer for the Colorado Highway who cut highway 6 over the pass leading into the valley. SKI Magazine readers now rate it as the number one resort in North America, boasting 5,000 acres and 33 lifts!

So if you’re longing for adventure, go to one of Colorado’s best places... Vail!!

Summer rates for The Antlers at Vail start at \$165.00 per night for a studio. For more information on rates, amenities, programs and current events, go to [www.antlersvail.com](http://www.antlersvail.com) or call 1-800-843-8245.

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**We were getting there! Below was what I reworked and sent to the copy editor. I asked Emily to add a quote and she got one from her aunt. I added subheads to break up the article. If an article looks like too much solid text, it will intimidate some readers. The subheads gave the articles a little breathing space and helped organize it. Then I called the resort to make sure we had the facts right and got a photo from them, I also used a photo from Emily, and I added a cutline (caption) to the photos. I then e-mailed it to our copy editor. This time, I highlighted for you the mistakes that the copy editor found.**

## Third draft

### Wag your tail in Vail

By Colorado Kids reporter Emily Westover, 12, Centennial, Colorado

**Vail, COLORADO** – As we wind our way through the village of Vail, we head straight to our favorite, pet-friendly hotel – the Antlers.

These cozy condos are home to a brand-new heated pool. Two steamy hot tubs and a heated walkway overlook a flowing stream. In the winter, skiers can warm up while enjoying the scenery.

If you follow Gore Creek hiking trail (behind the Antlers) along the crystal clear river, it opens up to the fascinating little town of Lion’s Head village. This charming shopping center delights tourists with its quaint shops like a general store, hip sports shops, and fun little food joints. An awesome gondola carries you up a towering mountain in many seasons.

#### Vail Village

Drive two minutes to Vail Village. You’ll find two ice cream parlors, a toy store, clothing stores, and coffee shops.

Dogs are welcome at Bart and Yetis restaurant. My dogs Einstein, Tiffany, and Weevy love to eat the bones offered to them. “It’s a friendly atmosphere that allows your canine friends,” said frequent visitor Cindy Rankin, 36, of Casper, Wyoming.

### **Outdoor adventures**

Shopping isn’t the only summer activity in Vail. You can go mountain biking; golf while viewing lush scenery; horse back ride through enchanted, **magical** forests; take a thrilling ride in a hot air balloon over miles of Vail’s majestic mountains; go kayaking through sparkling rivers, and more!

“What I like best about Vail is that it’s not very crowded in the summer.” said Tom Flanagan, 41, of Centennial, Colorado.

### **Yesterday and today**

Once called “No Name Mountain,” this great town is a far cry from what it started out as 42 years ago. It’s now named after engineer Charles Vail who cut Highway 6 over the pass leading into the valley.

*SKI* magazine readers rated Vail as the number one resort town in North America, boasting 5,000 acres and 33 lifts.

Summer rates for the Antlers at Vail start at \$165.00 per night for a studio. For more information **and to see more rates**, go to [www.antlersvail.com](http://www.antlersvail.com) or call 1-800-843-8245.

So if you’re longing for adventure, go to one of Colorado’s most-exciting places... Vail!

*Photo courtesy Kelly Westover*

**Emily Westover, with her Afghan hounds Einstein and Tiffany, enjoy exploring Vail.**

*Photo courtesy Antlers at Vail*

**CK reporter Emily Westover and her family enjoy the pool, hot tubs, workout room and services at the Antlers in Vail.**

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## **Final edited draft**

**I made the changes suggested by the copy editor on the final version below. Then the graphic artist took the edited copy and laid it into the pages using a program called Adobe InDesign. She added her artistic touch and voilà, we were almost there.**

**We sent the completed pages to Jill Armstrong with Post-News Educational Services. A copy editor with *The Denver Post* carefully looked over every word, headline, comma, and period. Jill made the final changes and sent the pages to composing where they were combined with the other pages in the Scene section of the newspaper. Over a quarter-of-a-million copies of “Colorado Kids” with Emily’s story were published as part of Tuesday’s *Denver Post* and distributed all over the state.**

**If you are a writer who wants to publish or wants to get a high grade, you must submit to the editing process. It can be painful, but teamwork makes for such a better end product!**

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[Click here to see the story as it appeared in Colorado Kids.](#)