



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Colorado Experience" Returns for 12th Season on Rocky Mountain PBS

Explore the people, places, and events that shaped Colorado and influenced its future.

Denver, CO – Rocky Mountain PBS is excited to announce the return of its flagship series, "Colorado Experience," for its 12th season, premiering on Oct. 9. The Emmy-winning documentary series explores the key people, places, and events that shape the Centennial State, linking its rich and diverse history to modern-day communities.

The new season reveals captivating and often overlooked parts of Colorado's history. The premiere episode, "Black Cowboys," highlights the important legacy of Black cowboys and the individuals working to preserve that heritage today. Later episodes dive into Colorado's hot springs and their significance to indigenous communities, examine how players from Black, Japanese and immigrant communities came together on local baseball diamonds, and unravel the complex history of Cheesman Park, from its origins as a cemetery to its centrality in Denver's movements for LGBTQ rights.

"As Colorado prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary, 'Colorado Experience' remains a unique source of reporting on the past and how it impacts today," said Amanda Horvath, managing producer at Rocky Mountain PBS. "These four new episodes feature less explored aspects of our history through voices from across the state."

"Colorado Experience" uses diverse cultural perspectives to illuminate Colorado's history. By connecting past events to our shared present, each episode fosters a greater sense of place and community among viewers. This season features lively stories revealing how Colorado was shaped. The episodes encourage viewers to engage with the nuanced history surrounding them and examine what it means to be a Coloradan, thereby deepening their connection to the place they call home. Through human-centered storytelling, it aims to build a stronger sense of belonging and community.

Watch: "Colorado Experience" airs Thursdays at 7 p.m. on [Rocky Mountain PBS](https://www.rockymountainpbs.org). Watch new episodes and revisit previous seasons with [RMPBS+](https://www.rmpbs.org).

Learn more about the series: rmpbs.org/shows/colorado-experience

EPIISODE SCHEDULE:

"Black Cowboys" | Premieres Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. MDT

Black cowboy culture is experiencing a renaissance. Creators are reclaiming a long-overlooked legacy deeply rooted in Colorado history from the pioneering Exodusters to Lu Vason, founder of Denver's Bill Pickett Rodeo. As Black history faces growing threats, this documentary highlights the enduring impact of Black cowboys and the voices redefining the culture today.

"Sacred Hot Springs" | Premieres Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. MDT

Take a deep dive into Colorado's hot springs and geothermal culture, exploring the rich history and enduring Indigenous connection to these sacred waters. It also examines the ongoing need for land and water stewardship amid modern development, as well as the growing potential for geothermal energy use across the state. All of this comes at a time when self-care and agency in personal wellness has become more popular in the wake of the pandemic.

"United by Baseball" | Premieres Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. MDT

Baseball has long unified Colorado's diverse communities. Even before statehood, towns formed teams that brought people together. Immigrant groups—like Hispanic sugar beet workers and Japanese Americans—created their own leagues, claiming the sport as part of their American identity. In Denver, rising Black talent led to the first integrated game of the 20th century. Today, baseball still builds lasting connections, especially for new immigrants.

"Hidden History of Cheesman Park" | Premieres Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. MDT

Uncover the captivating history of Cheesman Park, which began as one of Denver's first cemeteries. As the city expanded, the cemetery was transformed into a park, with most of the bodies relocated—though an estimated 3,000 remain beneath the grass. Over time, Cheesman Park evolved into a vital gathering place for Denver's LGBTQ community, becoming one of the city's few safe spaces. Today, it remains a vibrant hub of queer culture and has historically served as the starting place for the Pride parade each June.

Media Note: Follow @rmpbs for updates.

About Rocky Mountain Public Media

[Rocky Mountain Public Media](#) (RMPM) is Colorado's largest statewide, member-supported multimedia network, home to Rocky Mountain PBS, KUVU JAZZ and THE DROP 104.7. RMPM works to strengthen Colorado communities by offering educational resources, trusted news and information, a stage for local artists and stories that build bridges to empathy and understanding.

About Rocky Mountain PBS

[Rocky Mountain PBS](#) is dedicated to inspiring curiosity and fostering lifelong learning through exceptional educational programming, including acclaimed PBS series, documentaries and RMPBS KIDS' trusted children's channel. With a commitment to breaking down stigmas and amplifying diverse cultures, our journalists tell authentic stories from communities across the state, offering perspectives from the people who live them. Each month, over a million Coloradans turn to us for thought-provoking local, national and international programming, world-class performances and engaging events that bring families and neighbors together for unforgettable, enriching experiences. Through our work to educate, inform and connect, Rocky Mountain PBS remains a vital resource for discovery, diverse viewpoints and meaningful learning opportunities for all.

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