

THIS MONTH IN THE HISTORY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN PBS

By Laura Sampson | Founder | Station's Archived Memories (SAM)

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What's the scoop on the children's summer program that aired on Rocky Mountain PBS in the 1990's?



In the spring of 1990, **Trux Simmons**, former RMPBS Producer/Director, proposed a new summer series called "[SUMMER SCOOPS.](#)" The 2-minute program would air throughout the summer months giving kids and parents the latest "scoop" on news, people, regional sites and activities. In its inaugural season which premiered in June 1990, helpful safety tips were also included in each episode.

For the opening shot of *Summer Scoops*, Trux featured elementary-aged kids seated at a drug store soda fountain holding scoops of ice cream that magically turned into microphones.

Summer Scoops was a multiyear mini-series of news shorts that were prepared and presented by selected 5th and 6th graders who had participated in its sister program, *Super School News*. In later years, *Summer Scoops* was produced by SSN directors Sally Reed and John Burshtan. Programs were shot on-site at numerous front range locations including the Children's Museum, Mile High Stadium, Water World, Denver Zoo, Denver Post Office, a candy factory, the Denver Botanic Gardens and many more.



In one of the 1991 episodes, student emcees were honored to interview members of the Denver Bears Baseball organization at Mile High stadium (left). On another episode that same summer, students demonstrated the outdoor ski slope at the Children's Museum (right).

An award-winning [1997 episode of Summer Scoops](#) was awarded 2nd place in the Colorado Broadcasters Association Awards of Excellence in the category of "Best Children's Programming." That segment was filmed at the Denver Post Office.

This local RMPBS children's program made a lifelong difference for many participating elementary-aged student newscasters! When sharing a 30th Anniversary testimonial on behalf of *Super School News* in 2010, Mietra Ghaffari -- a 1991 SSN reporter -- said she worked on two pieces of *Summer Scoops* at Water World and Ways to Keep Cool. She said, "It was a great experience and jump-started my desire to get my degree in journalism."



Enjoy a taste of the 1997 award-winning [Summer Scoops episode, Post Office.](#)

All research for this month's article was made possible by STATION'S ARCHIVED MEMORIES (SAM). Station's Archived Memories serves the past, present, and future of Rocky Mountain PBS by assuring that the history of the station and its importance to the Colorado community will survive for generations to come. SAM is a volunteer-driven project preserving the history of Rocky Mountain PBS. To learn more about the station's history and how to research, volunteer or donate items to the archives, please visit www.RMPBS.org/SAM, contact the SAM Office at RMPBS 303.620.5734 or email SAM@rmpbs.org.