**Countryside Montessori School**

**Pony Ride/Headgear Policy**

Countryside offers pony rides as part our curriculum. Even though we have never had a pony related accident our insurance carrier requires certain wording to be included in our policies. Children at Countryside sit on the pony bench while waiting their turn. For children under the age of four years old a staff member will walk next to the pony while holding onto the waist of the child while the pony is led by a lead rope. All children will be taught how mount and dismount the pony. All children will sit on the saddle and hold onto the saddle horn while riding.

**Pony Ride Policy**

The pony riding and the handling of ponies can be a dangerous activity which can result in injury. I understand, from this date on, hereby release, indemnify, and hold harmless Countryside Montessori School, twintrips, incorporated and/or their employees or volunteers, from any and all claims, actions, suits, and/or damages that may occur as a result of any injuries sustained while taking pony rides, handling, or being near the ponies on the property Countryside Montessori School. This shall include losses, damages, costs, and counsel fees that may occur as a result of injury, and related claims by any parties. I understand that risks are involved in riding, handling, or being near ponies, and by signing this agreement I take full responsibility in the event of any injury. I have read this release, waiver and indemnity agreement, understand the risks involved and agree to assume them. I sign this agreement voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

**Protective Headgear**

On behalf of my child I have been asked to provide a SEI certified ASTM standard F 1163 Equestrian helmet and do understand that the wearing of such headgear while mounting, riding, dismounting and otherwise being around ponies, may prevent or reduce severity of some of the wearer’s head injuries and possibly prevent the wearer’s death from happening as the result of a fall and other occurrences.

( ) Protective Headgear Acceptance: I request my child wear protective headgear which **I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **will provide**.

( ) Pony Ride Refusal: I refuse to allow my child to participate during pony rides. I understand that my child will be sitting with his/her class during pony rides and will be unable to participate.

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 Child’s Name

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 Parent Signature Date