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Qualifying rounds draw 82,710 fans to Circuit of The Americas™ as Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel claims pole position for the FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX

AUSTIN, Texas (Nov. 16, 2012) – Formula 1™ fans from around the world gathered at Circuit of The Americas today to watch two-time World Champion Sebastian Vettel of Red Bull Racing claim pole position for the inaugural **FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX**. Sunny, cool weather greeted the crowd of 82,710, which arrived steadily through the morning hours and peaked as qualifying for Sunday's Grand Prix was underway.

Vettel, who leads the drivers' standings, recorded the fastest lap time of 1:35.657 with fellow World Champion Lewis Hamilton of Vodafone McLaren Mercedes placing second with a time of 1:35.766. Vettel's teammate, Mark Webber grabbed position three on the grid with a time of 1:36.174. A recap of today's Formula 1 qualifying sessions, including high-resolution images available for download, is available at www.circuitoftheamericas.com/media-center.

The FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX concludes Sunday, Nov. 18, with pre-race festivities kicking off at 12:30 p.m. CST and the race set for a 1 p.m. start. Circuit gates open at 7:30 a.m. Country music artist Clay Walker will perform a free concert for fans in the Grand Plaza following the Formula 1 race.

About Circuit of The Americas

Circuit of The Americas is a world-class destination for performance, education and business. It is the first purpose-built Grand Prix facility in the United States designed for any and all classes of racing, from motor power to human power, and is home to the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX™ set for Nov. 16-18. Racing series joining the Circuit's 2013 line-up include MotoGP™, V8 Supercars™ and GRAND-AM Road Racing™. The Circuit of The Americas' master plan features a variety of permanent structures designed for business, education, entertainment and race use. Its signature element is a 3.4-mile circuit track. Other support buildings include an expansive outdoor live music space, an iconic 251-foot tower with observation deck, an events and conference center, a banquet hall as well as a state-of-the-art medical facility. For more information and downloadable video, audio and photos, visit: www.CircuitofTheAmericas.com.

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