



Fact sheet: Aramco F1® in Schools

Background info and briefing notes on the initiative – for internal and external use

About Ithra

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) Ithra is a world-class destination and the beating heart of Saudi Arabia’s creative and culture industry contributing to its prosperity by enabling talent, supporting content production and encouraging cross-cultural exchange that promotes social harmony and human development. Ithra is Saudi Aramco’s most ambitious CSR initiative and the largest cultural contribution to the Kingdom.

About F1® in Schools

The F1® in Schools program is a global educational initiative by Formula One operating in 40 countries. It brings the sport into the classroom, delivering exciting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEAM) learning opportunities, and inspiring the next generation to embrace careers in these fields.

In the competition, student teams take on their international counterparts to design and develop a scale model F1® in Schools car using advanced engineering and produce highly creative and instructive presentations. The challenge is open to government and private school students aged 15-16, who work in teams of three to six.

About KSA F1® in Schools

Sponsored by Aramco and powered by Ithra, the initiative brings together Saudi students to join schools from the 40 other participating countries in the annual competition, culminating in the Aramco F1® in Schools World Final.

The initiative forms part of Ithra’s mission to provide local youth with world-class STEAM opportunities. Ithra share a commitment towards investing in programs, initiatives and events designed to engage, inspire and excite Saudi Arabia’s youth across different passions to lead the industries of tomorrow guided by innovation.

The F1® in Schools program returns for its third cycle in 2024 in the following six cities: Dhahran, Al-Hasa, Riyadh, Al Madinah, Jiddah, and Abha, targeting 270 male and female students between the ages of 15 – 16 years old who were trained under the supervision of 38 professionals from around the Kingdom.

Regional competitions have been completed across all six cities with 120 participants on 20 teams advancing to the F1® in Schools National Competition being held in Dhahran starting on July 4, 2024.

From these 20 teams a panel of regional and international judges will select three teams to advance to the Aramco F1® in Schools World Final later this year

Ithra's F1® in Schools objectives:

- Develop the talents and skills of the national teams participating in the international competition.
- Highlight the participation of Saudis in international forums.
- Contribute to the development of creative industries and the growth Saudi Arabia's creative economy.
- Provide opportunities for students by helping them develop skills, unlock creativity and apply what they've learned in a stimulating, competitive and practical environment as part of a miniature Formula 1® team.

F1® in Schools History

2022 - The first announced group of participants in the F1® in Schools program consisted of 18 male and female students, who underwent an intensive training program in fully equipped training centers with high-quality research and development labs under the supervision of specialized facilitators. After the training, the participants were divided into three teams who made it to the World Finals —held in the United Kingdom— where the Saudi cohort won the “Best Newcomers Award.”

By the numbers: 1 city/training centre (Dhahran), 18 students, 8 months of training, 3 teams qualified, winners of “- “FIA Women in Motorsports” award

2023 - Two hundred students aged 15 – 16 years were named to the second group to participate in the annual program. Following months of training and qualification stages, 15 teams were selected for the national finals hosted by Ithra, where three teams – Shaheen, Oryx and Abiya – qualified for the international finals held in Singapore. All three Saudi teams were nominated for top awards, with the Saudi Oryx team taking the prestigious Innovation Thinking Award of the 2023 F1® in Schools World Finals

By the numbers: 5 training hubs/cities (Riyadh, Jiddah, Dhahran, Al-Ahsa and Madinah), 200 students, 8 months of training, 45 teams, 3 qualified for World Finals, Winners - Best Team in the World Award in Innovative Thinking.

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