



Digital Divide

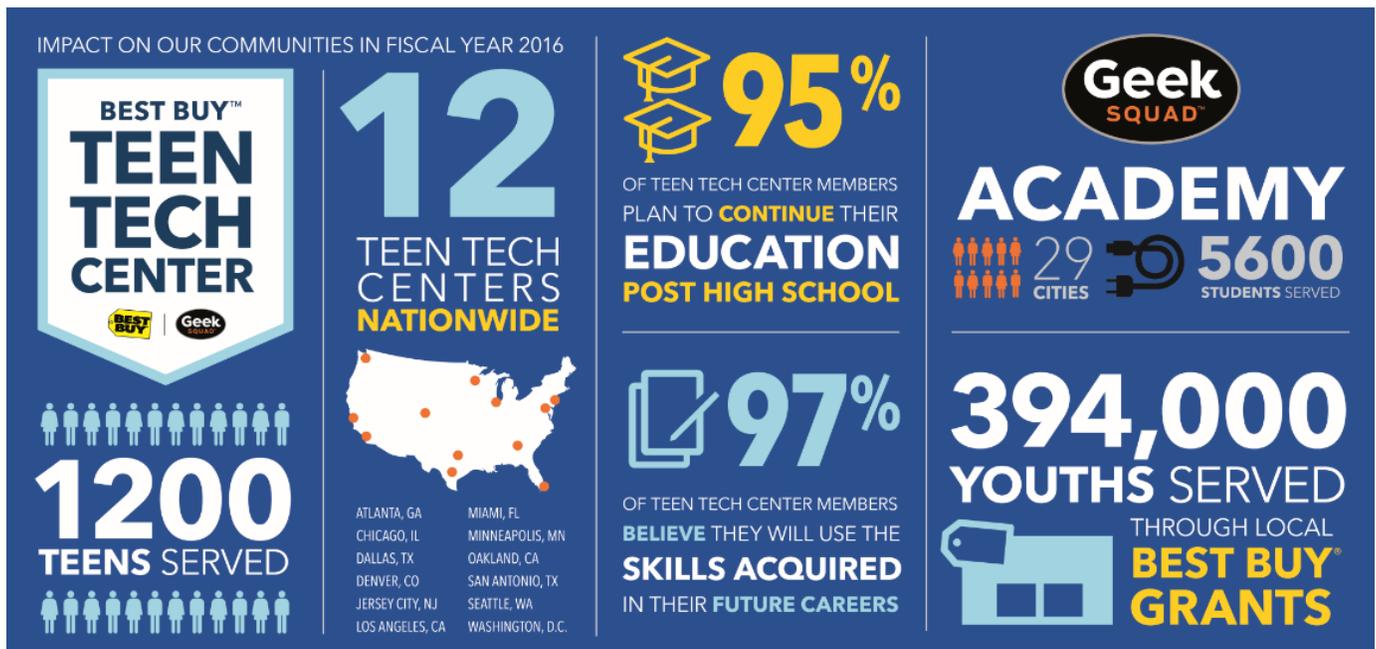
We provide underprivileged teens with access to the opportunities that technology can provide, helping build their technology skills and prepare for future careers.

Digital Divide

Despite incredible advances in technology to help Americans connect, interact and learn, more and more young people are being left behind as the digital divide persists.

Youth from underserved communities and lower-income families often lack access to tech tools like computers and internet connections — along with training in how to use them. This creates a very real challenge for preparing the next generation of talent our country needs to compete and succeed in a global economy. At Best Buy, we believe that we have a responsibility to share our knowledge and resources to help underserved populations have access to and experience the benefits of technology. We are partnering with the federal government and national and local nonprofit organizations across the country to tackle this issue.

Specifically, Best Buy Teen Tech Center and Geek Squad Academy programs aim to narrow the digital divide by encouraging teens to explore technology through immersive training in digital music and film production, digital photography, coding, 3D design, robotics and more. We are intensifying efforts in fiscal year 2017 to confront the technology gap through expanded programs that help underserved young people develop the skills they need to be successful in school and in their future careers.



Best Buy Teen Tech Centers

Best Buy Teen Tech Centers provide free after-school programs year-round where teens can develop technology skills through hands-on activities such as coding, robotics, filmmaking, music production, graphic design, mobile applications and game development. We partner with the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network to assist with program development, support the centers' staff and monitor results. In fiscal year 2016, our eight Teen Tech Centers served more than 1,200 teens.

In fiscal year 2017, four new Teen Tech Centers will open their doors to serve local youth. Following an open grant submission process, Best Buy selected the Atlanta Fulton Public Library System in Atlanta; the Juanita J. Craft Recreation Center in Dallas; the P.F. Bresee Foundation in Los Angeles, and Alternatives in Action in

Oakland, California, as partners. They join existing centers in Chicago; Denver; Jersey City, New Jersey; Miami; Minneapolis; San Antonio; Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

Geek Squad Academy

Similar to the curriculum taught at Best Buy Teen Tech Centers, Geek Squad Academy (GSA) is an immersive tech training camp. Best Buy partners with local nonprofits and other organizations to expose students ages 10 to 18 to the latest technology in a fun, interactive setting through the two-day sessions. Local Geek Squad Agents and Best Buy Blue Shirts teach the interactive, hands-on curriculum at local community centers and schools. In fiscal year 2016, we held academies in 29 cities across the U.S.



In fiscal year 2017, GSA will celebrate its 10th year of providing free tech training camps to youth across America. More than 6,000 students will attend camps during GSA’s 10th season. The summer series will include a total of 30 camps that will conclude in September. Since its inception in 2006, GSA has inspired more than 30,000 kids from underserved communities to become the new generation of engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers, designers and dreamers.

ConnectHome

Best Buy continues to support ConnectHome, a public-private collaboration to help bridge the digital divide for families with school-age children living in U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) housing. As part of the HUD partnership, Best Buy will provide free digital literacy training and Geek Squad Academy courses to teens in public housing in more than 20 cities. Teen Tech Centers will be used as training and distribution locations for ConnectHome families receiving devices and internet services.

As part of the ConnectHome initiative, in June 2016, we will be holding a Geek Squad Academy camp in partnership with the Choctaw Indian Nation and Durant Independent School District. This will be the first GSA on a Native American reservation and we anticipate about 180 youth “Junior Agent” participants.