The arrival of the Declaration of Independence and the bright red, white and blue tents dressed a crowd of students to the UA Mall yesterday.

The Declaration of Independence has been touring college campuses around the nation with Declare Yourself, a non-profit, non-partisan campaign formed to inspire youths on college campuses to vote.

Matthew Fish, a 20-year-old Paradise Valley Community College student, was one of the booths registering to vote.

"People should be involved in their right to vote because we have the ability to make decisions in this country," said Fish.

Fish added with a smile that his girlfriend made him register.

The event also held a College Video Challenge, sponsored by Yahoo.com. Students who were interested in voicing why they think it is important to vote were welcomed to speak out and be recorded. Five students from each university with the best responses will be chosen for their clips to run on Declare Yourself and Yahoo.com.

Public administration sophomore Bryant Conger waited near the USS Arizona Room to participate in the video content. He said he is really interested in politics and the reason he is willing to speak out on video is because he may have a chance to meet with a Democratic candidate.

"I get to get some beef with the candidate," said Conger.

Conger said he believes events promoting voter registration and civic awareness on campuses are important.

"I think it’s good that they’re here, because the more students that are registered means that more students are going to have a say in the decisions that affect our tuition and lives," said Conger.

Around noon, spoken word artist Steve Connell, Sekou (Tha Misfit), Gina Loring and Marty McConnell performed on the UA stage.

Performance poets Gina Loring and Sekou (Tha Misfit) recite a poem on the UA Mall yesterday during a slam poetry session in part of the Declare Yourself traveling voter registration and information fair. Declare Yourself also had information booths, gave away free merchandise and talked to students about voting.

Students say ignorance, caution stops their vote

By Thuba Nguyen
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UA students say they want to carry out their civic duty by voting, but don’t believe they know enough about issues and candidates to make an informed decision.

"You don’t want to make the wrong decisions," said Cliff Golson, an undeclared freshman.

Golson said students do not know much about the issues at hand to make choices that would affect the country.

General biology senior Josh Fern said he believes students are not as interested in politics as they should be.

"I think they’re more tuned to their studies and what’s around them … than what’s going on in America," Fern said.

Fern, a registered Republican who has voted before, said he feels his vote would not make a difference out of millions of votes, but he still carries out his civic duty since he wants to prove to his girlfriend.

"I can’t imagine any other way," he said.

Parental influence was also a factor in deciding to vote.

"My parents have made a difference out of millions of votes," said Fish.

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"I can’t imagine any other way," he said.

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In his wide-ranging talk yesterday, Kyl also decried governments that knowingly allow crimes to be committed, saying they undermine the rule of law.

He pointed to cities that build shelters for day laborers, many of whom have entered the country illegally, as institutions that foster disrespect for the rule of law.

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