National Folk Festival Lures Big Crowds On Day One

By: Heather Graf

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The first day of the National Folk Festival kicked off on Friday evening. So far, organizers and festival attendees say they like what they're seeing.

It's been years since Nashville hosted a big event during Labor Day Weekend. Mayor Karl Dean says that's one of several reason this festival is a big deal for Music City.

"Visitors come to our city, they're going to see a great downtown, a lot of excitement, and hopefully have a great time," he said. "They're going to know more about our city, going to spend a little money in our city, and help our city move forward."

The three-day festival is expected to bring 80,000 people to town, along with millions of dollars in economic impact.

Local food vendors say the fact that the festival is free helps boost their profits even more.

"If there's not an event going on, it's hard to find people," said Dallas Shaw, who runs Hoss' Loaded Burgers Food Truck. "So when you have something like this, its wonderful on the weekends."

On Saturday, food vendors at the BiCentennial Mall at 11 a.m. The music is set to start at noon.

This will be the first of three years Nashville plays host to the National Folk Festival.

For a complete rundown of the festival line-up, and the road closures associated with it, click on the News Links section of www.newschannel5.com.

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