TOURISM POTENTIAL OF THE POLISH CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS ON THE EXAMPLE OF STUDENT TENT SITES ACTIVITY

Summary

The article presents the process of shaping tourism infrastructure of the Polish Carpathian Mountains after the Second World War on the example of student tent sites. In late 20th century, at the time when Student Guide Circles were developing in whole Poland, tent sites were supply points as well as starting and ending points for several-day-long hikes. Increasing tourist traffic, particularly of youth and student groups, caused such type of tourism infrastructure in Polish mountains to develop intensively. The first such facilities appeared in early 1960s in the Tatras and the Bieszczady Mountains. Particularly in the latter, almost entirely deserted and devoid of hostels, these were the only chance for a roof over the head for a hiking tourist. With time, they appeared in other mountains, as well as in lowland. At the peak of their development there were several tens of them in Poland. Alone in Bieszczady for many years 12-14 sites were open every year, offering over 400 accommodation places.

The Author indicates the differentiation of the site base in particular parts of the Carpathian Mountains, drawing attention to factors which either stimulated its development or caused it to decrease. The article presents the areas of student tent sites concentration and attempts to assess them. While assessing, two elements were taken into consideration: the number of accommodation places in the site tents and the height above sea level.

Translated by Agnieszka Maria Gernand